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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JANUARY 2011

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 10

Song 50 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 16 ¶1-6 (25 min)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 33-36 (10 min)
No. 1: 2 Chronicles 34:12-21 (4 min or less)
No. 2: What Can We Learn From the Example of Jesus' Mother, Mary? (5 min)
No. 3: Was Jesus Just Another Religious Leader?—*rs* p. 210 ¶2 (5 min)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 73
5 min: Announcements.
10 min: Express Warmth as You Preach. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 118, paragraph 1, to page 119, paragraph 5.
10 min: Could You Step Over Into Macedonia? (Acts 16:9, 10) Discussion based on the *2010 Yearbook*, pages 163-164 and pages 238-239. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: "A Most Enjoyable Work." Questions and answers. Briefly interview a publisher regarding the joy and satisfaction he has received from conducting a progressive Bible study.
Song 75 and Prayer

A Most Enjoyable Work

[1] Great joy filled the hearts of those who witnessed physical healing in the first century. (Luke 5:24-26) In our day, we rejoice in the work of spiritual healing. (Rev. 22:1, 2, 17) How exciting it is to read experiences in which Jehovah's Word and holy spirit transform the lives of individuals! Even more rewarding, however, is *participating* in this work by conducting a progressive Bible study.

1. What work of spiritual healing is occurring in our day?

[2] What is God's name? Why does he permit suffering? What will God's Kingdom do for mankind? We find pleasure not only in answering such questions but also in seeing the joy radiate from the student when he learns the truth. (Prov. 15:23; Luke 24:32) As a student progresses, he may begin to use Jehovah's name, make changes in his dress and grooming, shed harmful practices, and start witnessing to others. If he progresses to dedication and baptism, he will become our brother and fellow worker. Each of these positive steps is a reason to rejoice.—1 Thess. 2:19, 20.

[3] **Can You Have a Share?** If you would like to participate in this most enjoyable work, ask Jehovah for the privilege of conducting a Bible study, and then work in harmony with your prayers. (1 John 5:14) Preach where and when people can be found. Offer a Bible study on every appropriate occasion. (Eccl. 11:6) When you find interest and plant a seed of truth, return to water it.—1 Cor. 3:6-9.

[4] Countless people yet remain who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Who will help to fill their spiritual need by conducting a Bible study with them? (Matt. 5:3, 6) Let us offer ourselves willingly to help complete the preaching and disciple-making work before the harvest comes to an end.—Isa. 6:8.

2. What joy may we experience as we teach someone the truth?
3. What practical steps can we take to start a Bible study?
4. Why should we offer Bible studies with a sense of urgency?

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 17

Song 77 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 16 ¶7-14 (25 min)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Ezra 1-5 (10 min)
No. 1: Ezra 3:1-9 (4 min or less)
No. 2: Why Did the Jews in General Not Accept Jesus as the Messiah?—*rs* p. 211 ¶1-2 (5 min)
No. 3: How Does the Spirit Return to God?—Eccl. 12:7 (5 min)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 116
***5* min:** Announcements.
10 min: The Value of Repetition in the Ministry. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 206-207. Briefly demonstrate one or two points from the material.
20 min: "Do You Know Your Options?" Questions and answers. Use the information in paragraph 1 for the introduction and paragraph 3 for the conclusion. To be handled by an elder.
Song 7 and Prayer

Do You Know Your Options?

Bloodless surgery is being performed at an increasing number of medical centres around the world. Are you fully informed of the options that are available in the field of bloodless medicine? You need to know so that you can make informed decisions involving medical treatment and surgery. Watch the video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge.* Afterward, prayerfully review what you learned with the help of the questions set out below.—Note: Because the video includes brief surgical scenes, parents should use discretion in viewing the video with young children.

(1) What is the main reason why Jehovah's Witnesses refuse blood transfusions? **(2)** When it comes to medical care, what do Jehovah's Witnesses desire? **(3)** What basic right do patients have? **(4)** Why is it rational and responsible to choose transfusion alternatives? **(5)** When severe blood loss occurs, what two urgent priorities do doctors have? **(6)** What are the four principles of transfusion-alternative strategies? **(7)** How may doctors (a) minimize blood loss, (b) conserve red blood cells, (c) stimulate blood production, and (d) recover lost blood? **(8)** Describe the procedures known as (a) haemodilution and (b) cell salvage. **(9)** What should you want to be informed about regarding any transfusion alternative? **(10)** Can serious and complicated surgeries be performed without the use of blood transfusions? **(11)** What positive development is taking place within the medical community?

Acceptance of some of the treatments featured in the video is a matter for private decision in accord with each one's Bible-trained conscience. Have you taken a clear position on which medical treatments and procedures you are willing to accept for yourself and your children and then filled in an *Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment* document? For a complete discussion of these matters, carefully review "Questions From Readers" in the June 15, 2004, and October 15, 2000, issues of *The Watchtower.* Then use the worksheets in the November 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, "How Do I View Blood Fractions and Medical Procedures Involving My Own Blood?," to make your personal decisions about what options you would accept or refuse. Finally, be sure that you have accurately transferred your choices to your *Advance Decision* document. Please lodge a copy with the congregation secretary.

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WEEK STARTING JANUARY 24

Song 53 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 16 ¶15-20, box on p. 171 (25 min)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Ezra 6-10 (10 min)
No. 1: Ezra 7:1-17 (4 min or less)
No. 2: How Jesus Demonstrated His Worthiness to Rule as King (5 min)
No. 3: Is Jesus Christ Actually God?—*rs* p. 212 ¶1-2 (5 min)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 30
5 min: Announcements. Mention the literature offer for February, and have one presentation demonstrated.
20 min: "Help for Families."—Part 1. (Paragraphs 1-6 and the box on page 6.) Questions and answers. Encourage audience to try some of the suggestions from the box on page 6 during their next Family Worship evening. Next week, when the rest of the article is considered, they will have an opportunity to share their thoughts on how the family benefited.
10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in February. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
Song 32 and Prayer

Help for Families

[1] The Sabbath observance was a loving provision from Jehovah that benefited families. Israelites rested from their regular labours and had time to reflect on Jehovah's goodness and on their relationship with him. Parents could take advantage of this opportunity to inculcate the Law into the hearts of their children. (Deut. 6:6, 7) The Sabbath provided time each week for Jehovah's people to focus attention on their spirituality.

1. How did the weekly Sabbath benefit Israelite families?

[2] Of course, Jehovah no longer requires families to observe the Sabbath. However, that law teaches us something about our God. He has always been deeply interested in the spiritual welfare of his people. (Isa. 48:17, 18) Today, one way that Jehovah expresses this loving interest is by means of the Family Worship evening.

[3] **What Is the Purpose of the Family Worship Evening?** In January 2009, the Congregation Book Study began to be held on the same evening as the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. One reason for this adjustment was to give families an opportunity to fortify their spirituality by scheduling a specific evening each week for family worship. Each family was encouraged to move its family study to the night formerly used for the book study, if practical, and to use this time for unhurried Bible discussion and study tailored to the needs of the family.

[4] In order to attend the Congregation Book Study, we needed time to dress, travel, and so forth. For many of us, attending this one-hour meeting took the better part of the evening. With the adjustment to our meeting

2. What does the Sabbath teach us about Jehovah?
3. What is the purpose of the Family Worship evening?
4. Must the family limit their discussion to one hour? Explain.

schedule, we now have this evening to worship Jehovah as a family. Therefore, we need not limit our Family Worship evening to just one hour. Rather, we should think about the needs and limitations of our family and set the time period accordingly.

[5] **Must the Entire Time Be Spent in Group Discussion?** When married couples and families with children discuss Scriptural topics together, they encourage one another. (Rom. 1:12) The family draws closer together. Therefore, Scriptural discussions should be the centrepiece of the Family Worship evening. However, each family member could also spend time in personal study. For example, after the group discussion, the family might remain together while each individual continues to study separately, perhaps finishing his preparation for the meetings or reading the magazines. Some families choose to keep the television off the entire evening.

[6] **How May the Discussion Be Conducted?** The format need not always be a question-and-answer discussion. In order to make the Family Worship evening lively and interesting, many families have a programme that is similar to our midweek meeting. They divide their discussion into several parts and handle them in a variety of ways. For example, they might read the Bible together, prepare for a portion of the meetings, and have practice sessions for the ministry. Page 6 provides some suggestions.

5. Must the entire time be spent in group discussion? Explain.

6. How may the discussion be conducted?

[7] **What Atmosphere Should Parents Strive For?** Your family will learn best in a loving, relaxed atmosphere. You might sometimes study outdoors if the weather is favourable. Feel free to take breaks when needed. Some families include refreshments after the programme. While parents will avoid using the Family Worship evening to scold or discipline, they may need to devote some of the time to address a specific trend or problem that has come to their attention. However, it may be best to discuss sensitive personal issues privately with a child at another time during the week so as to avoid embarrassing him in front of his siblings. The Family Worship evening should not be a dry, sombre occasion but should reflect the happy God whom we worship.—1 Tim. 1:11.

[8] **How Can the Family Head Prepare?** The family will benefit most if the family head prepares in advance for each Family Worship evening by determining what should be discussed and how best to consider it. (Prov. 21:5) A husband does well to consult with his wife regarding this. (Prov. 15:22) Family heads, why not also occasionally ask your children for their recommendations? If you do, you will gain valuable insight into their interests and concerns.

[9] On most weeks the family head will not have to spend extensive time preparing. Likely, the family will enjoy having certain regular features each week, and the family head will not

7. What atmosphere should parents strive for?

8, 9. What preparation is required of family heads?

need to come up with an entirely new programme every time. He may find it advantageous to prepare after each study while his family's spiritual needs are fresh in mind. Some family heads write out a brief agenda and place it where the family can easily see it, such as on the refrigerator. This creates excitement and anticipation and gives the family time to prepare if needed.

[10] **What If I Am the Only One in My Family?** Those who live alone can use the Family Worship evening for personal study. A good basic personal study programme should include reading the Bible, preparing for meetings, and reading *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Some publishers supplement this with a personal study project. On occasion, they may wish to invite another publisher or family to join them for an upbuilding Scriptural discussion.

The Family Worship evening should not be a dry, sombre occasion but should reflect the happy God whom we worship

[11] **What Are the Benefits of Having a Regular Family Worship Evening?** Those who wholeheartedly engage in true worship draw closer to Jehovah. Additionally, families who worship together strengthen family bonds. One married couple wrote regarding the blessings they have enjoyed: "As a pioneer couple without children, we really look forward to our Family Worship night. We feel like we are drawing closer to each other and to our heavenly Father. Now when we wake up on the day that we have scheduled to study together, we say to each other: 'Guess what tonight is? Family Worship night!' "

[12] The arrangement of having an evening for family worship also helps busy families. One single mother who is raising two sons and regular pioneering wrote: "In the past, our family study suffered. It was sporadic and inconsistent because I was tired. I just couldn't figure out how to fit it in. So I am writing you to thank you so very much for the Family Worship evening. We have been successfully having a regular family study and experiencing the benefits."

[13] Like the Sabbath, the Family Worship evening is a gift from our heavenly Father that can help families. (Jas. 1:17) The way that Israelite families used the Sabbath determined how much they benefited spiritually. Similarly, how we use the evening that we have been given for family worship determines how much our family will benefit. (2 Cor. 9:6; Gal. 6:7, 8; Col. 3:23, 24) By making good use of this arrangement, your family can echo the sentiments of the psalmist: "But as for me, the drawing near to God is good for me. In the Sovereign Lord Jehovah I have placed my refuge." —Ps. 73:28.

10. How can those who live alone use their Family Worship evening?

11, 12. What are some of the benefits of having a regular Family Worship evening?

13. What determines how much your family will benefit from this arrangement?

SAVE

Some Ideas for the Family Worship Evening

Bible:

- Read a portion of the weekly Bible reading together. If the material lends itself to doing so, one person can read the narration, and others can read the words of the different characters.
- Re-enact a portion of the Bible reading.
- Assign each member of the family to read the designated Bible chapters in advance and to make note of one or two questions that he has on the material. Then research everyone's questions together.
- Each week prepare a flashcard with a Bible verse on it and try to memorize and explain it. Build up a collection of cards, and review them weekly to see how many scriptures you remember.
- Listen to an audio recording of the Bible reading while following along in the Bible.

Meetings:

- Prepare together for a portion of the meetings.
- Practice the Kingdom songs scheduled for the coming week.
- If someone has a talk on the Theocratic Ministry School or a demonstration on the Service Meeting, discuss ideas for presenting it or rehearse it in front of the family.

Needs of the Family:

- Consider material from the *Young People Ask* or *Learn From the Great Teacher* books.
- Have a practice session on how to handle a situation that is likely to arise at school.
- Have a practice session where the parents and children reverse roles. The children research a subject and then reason with the parents.

Ministry:

- Have practice sessions to prepare presentations for the weekend.
- Discuss realistic goals the family can set to expand their share in the ministry during the Memorial season or holiday time.
- Allow each family member a few minutes to research how to answer different questions that may arise in the ministry, and then have practice sessions.

Additional Suggestions:

- Read together an article from the current magazines.
- Have each family member read in advance an article that intrigues him from the current magazines, and then have him give a report on it.
- Occasionally invite a publisher or couple to join you for your Family Worship evening, and perhaps interview them.
- Watch and discuss one of our videos.
- Discuss together "Young People Ask" or "For Family Review" from *Awake!*
- Discuss together "Teach Your Children" or "For Young People" from *The Watchtower.*
- Read and discuss a portion of the current *Yearbook* or a release from the last district convention.
- After attending a convention or assembly, review the highlights.
- Observe Jehovah's creation firsthand, and discuss what it teaches us about Jehovah.
- Work on a project together, such as a model, a map, or a chart.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 31

Song 99 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 17 ¶1-9 (25 min)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Nehemiah 1-4 (10 min)
No. 1: Nehemiah 2:11-20 (4 min or less)
No. 2: Does John 1:1 Prove That Jesus Is God?—*rs* p. 212 ¶4-6 (5 min)
No. 3: Ways in Which We Heed Jesus' Words at Matthew 22:21 (5 min)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 52
5 min: Announcements.
20 min: "Help for Families."—Part 2. (Paragraphs 7-13) Questions and answers. Invite audience to comment on how their family benefited from applying some of the suggestions on page 6.
10 min: "Train Your Children to Be Ministers." Questions and answers. Invite audience to comment on specific ways their parents helped them to set and reach progressive goals in the ministry.
Song 88 and Prayer

Train Your Children to Be Ministers

[1] Jehovah invites young ones to praise him. (Ps. 148:12, 13) Christian parents, therefore, do more than teach their children Bible truths and God's moral laws. They also train them to be ministers of the good news. How can this be done progressively?

[2] **Good Example:** Judge Gideon told his 300 men: "Learn from watching me." (Judg. 7:17) Children naturally watch and imitate their parents. One father works at night, but instead of going to sleep when he comes home Saturday morning, he takes his children in the ministry even though he is very tired. Without saying a word, he is teaching them that the ministry is a priority. (Matt. 6:33) Do your children observe you joyfully engaging in various forms of worship, such as praying, reading the Bible, commenting, and preaching? Of course, you will not be a *perfect* example. But your children will be more inclined to respond to your efforts to teach them to worship Jehovah if they see your diligence in serving him.—Deut. 6:6, 7; Rom. 2:21, 22.

[3] **Progressive Goals:** Parents tirelessly train their children to walk, to talk, to dress themselves, and so forth. As children reach milestones in their growth, new goals are put before them. If the parents are Christians, they also help their children set and reach *spiritual* goals in accord with their age and abilities. (1 Cor. 9:26) Are you teaching your children to give comments in their own words and to prepare their own talks in the Theocratic Ministry School? (Ps. 35:18) Are you training them to engage in various aspects of the ministry? Are you setting before them the goal of baptism and full-time service? Are you actively bringing them into contact with joyful, enthusiastic evangelizers who will encourage them? —Prov. 13:20.

[4] The psalmist said: "O God, you have taught me from my youth on, and until now I keep telling about your wonderful works." (Ps. 71:17) Begin training your children at an early age to become ministers. The spiritual foundation that you help them lay is sure to benefit them into adulthood!—Prov. 22:6.

1. What does Psalm 148:12, 13 compel Christian parents to do?
2. How can a parent's good example affect his children?
3. What progressive spiritual goals should parents help their children to set and reach?
4. How do children benefit from having parents who begin training them in the ministry at an early age?

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 7

Song 25 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 17 ¶10-15 (25 min)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Nehemiah 5-8 (10 min)
No. 1: Nehemiah 6:1-13 (4 min or less)
No. 2: What Can We Learn About Hospitality From Lydia, Gaius, and Philemon? (5 min)
No. 3: Does Thomas' Exclamation at John 20:28 Prove That Jesus Is Truly God?—*rs* p. 213 ¶1-3 (5 min)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 92
5 min: Announcements.
10 min: Are You Using Your Gift in the Ministry? Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 75, paragraph 4, to page 76, paragraph 2.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: Be Accurate in Your Preaching and Teaching. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 223, paragraphs 1-5.
Song 13 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* **February:** Publishers may offer one of the following, if available: *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?, The Secret of Family Happiness,* or *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting studies in the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

■ Starting in February, the new public talk for the circuit overseers will be "How Does the Truth Affect Your Life?"

■ The graduation of the 41st class of the Ministerial Training School took place on Saturday, October 30, 2010. The class was comprised of 24 students, including 2 from Ireland and one from Spain. A total of 961 brothers have now benefited from this avenue of theocratic training in Britain.

Field Service Highlights

The new service year got off to a good start. Two hundred and thirty-five were baptized. One of the most encouraging features was a new all-time peak of 9,997 regular pioneers! A total of 129,459 shared in the field service. This is 1,807 more than the same month last year. We appreciate the diligent efforts put forth to have a meaningful share in the ministry and are reminded of the encouragement found at Colossians 3:17: "Whatever it is that you do in word or in work, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, thanking God the Father through him."

What to Say About the Magazines

The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom® January 1

Read Genesis 2:16, 17. Then say: "Some say that God knew in advance that Adam would sin. Others feel that God's warning would have been hypocritical if he already knew the outcome. What do you think? [Allow for response.] This article that begins on page 13 explains how God uses his ability to know the future."

Awake!® January

"Some believe that religious faith is based more on emotion than on sound reason. What do you think? [Allow for response.] According to the Bible, religious faith should not be blind. [Read 1 John 4:1.] The article that begins on page 28 explains how to make sure that our faith is based firmly on reason."

The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom® February 1

"Divorce is very common today. What do you think is the main cause of this? [Allow for response.] Notice this advice that many couples have found helpful. [Read 1 Corinthians 10:24.] This magazine considers six common complaints made by husbands and wives and shows how applying Bible principles can help."

Awake!® February

"There seems to be a growing interest in vampires, witches, and sorcerers. Do you think that involvement in the occult is harmless? [Allow for response.] Notice this warning God gave to ancient Israel. [Read Deuteronomy 18:10-12.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about the occult."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

FEBRUARY 2011

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 14

Song 72 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 17 ¶16-20, box on p. 181 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Nehemiah 9-11 (10 min.)
No. 1: Nehemiah 11:1-14 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Does Matthew 1:23 Indicate That Jesus When on Earth Was God?—*rs* p. 214 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Ways in Which God's Undeserved Kindness Is Expressed—1 Pet. 4:10 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 48
***5* min: Announcements.**
12 min: How to Converse With Strangers. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 62-64. Briefly interview a publisher who is known for his ability to start a conversation when witnessing informally or when going from door to door.
18 min: "The Memorial Season—An Opportunity for Increased Activity!" Questions and answers by the service overseer. After considering the article, outline local arrangements for meetings for field service during March, April, and May. Suggest schedules that would allow those of various circumstances to obtain 50 hours a month in the ministry. Interview two or three publishers who auxiliary pioneered during the Memorial season last year despite having a busy schedule or physical challenges.
Song 8 and Prayer

The Memorial Season—An Opportunity for Increased Activity!

[1] Can you increase your share in the ministry during the upcoming Memorial season? Many places will experience good weather and longer hours of daylight. Some publishers will have vacation from work or school that they can use for the ministry. Beginning on April 2, we will enjoy a special campaign to invite interested ones to attend the Memorial with us on April 17. Thereafter, we will endeavor to develop the interest of those who attended and invite them to the special talk that will be given during the week of April 25. Indeed, there are many reasons to consider increasing our activity during March, April, and May.

1. What reasons do we have to consider increasing our activity during March, April, and May?

[2] **Auxiliary Pioneering:** One excellent way to do more is to auxiliary pioneer. Since we are all busy, this generally requires planning ahead and making adjustments in our schedule. (Prov. 21:5) Perhaps you can postpone some nonessential activities in your normal routine. (Phil. 1:9-11) Why not express your desire to pioneer to others in the congregation to see if they can join you as an auxiliary pioneer?

[3] During your next Family Worship evening, it would be good to discuss your goals as a family. (Prov. 15:22) With cooperation, perhaps some members of the family can auxiliary pioneer one or more months. What if you determine that this is just not possible? The family can still arrange to increase their activity by sharing in the ministry on some evenings or by staying out longer on the weekends.

[4] Jehovah takes note of all we do to serve him and appreciates our sacrifices. (Heb. 6:10) Joy results from giving to Jehovah and to others. (1 Chron. 29:9; Acts 20:35) Could you increase your activity this Memorial season and reap the increased joy and blessings that result?

2. What is one excellent way to do more in our ministry?
3. How may families arrange to increase their activity?
4. What blessings will result from increasing our activity in the ministry this Memorial season?

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 21

Song 97 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 18 ¶1-9 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Nehemiah 12-13 (10 min.)
No. 1: Nehemiah 13:15-22 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: What It Means to Give Jehovah God Exclusive Devotion—Ex. 20:5 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Is the Meaning of John 5:18? —*rs* p. 214 ¶4-5 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 133
***5* min: Announcements.**
10 min: Jehovah Will Not Leave His Loyal Ones. (Ps. 37:28) Discussion based on the *2010 Yearbook,* page 149, paragraph 2, to page 150, paragraph 4; and page 175, paragraph 2, to page 179, paragraph 5, excluding the time line. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: Effective Conclusions in the Field Ministry. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 221, paragraph 5, to the end of page 222. Briefly demonstrate one or two points from the material.
10 min: *"'Bearing Thorough Witness' About God's Kingdom."* Questions and answers.
Song 31 and Prayer

"Bearing Thorough Witness" About God's Kingdom

1 During the week of March 14, 2011, we will begin consideration of *"Bearing Thorough Witness" About God's Kingdom* at the Congregation Bible Study. This publication covers the book of Acts in such a way that the reader can feel the excitement of the fast-moving events recorded therein. Instead of providing a verse-by-verse commentary, the *Bearing Witness* book draws lessons from the accounts in Acts and helps us to see how we can make personal application.—Rom. 15:4.

2 **Features of the Book:** The introduction on page 2 is a warm letter from the Governing Body expressing how they want us to benefit from this publication. Beginning with chapter 2, a focus line explains the thrust of each chapter and a Scripture citation indicates the portion of Acts that will be discussed. Many of the chapters contain informative boxes that offer background information about people, places, or events. Wide margins allow us to make notes. Throughout the book are richly detailed illustrations of Biblical scenes to help us visualize important events, and on the last page is a helpful image index to explain what is being depicted in various pictures. Inside the front and back covers are maps to assist us in following the progress of fellow worshippers in the first century as they began spreading the good news "to the most distant part of the earth."—Acts 1:8.

3 **Answers to Important Questions:** Consideration of the book of Acts will help us to discern clearly the answers to important questions about the Christian ministry. For example, what work and message identify true followers of Jesus Christ? Who directs this worldwide preaching work, and how? What opportunities do persecution and opposition create for ministers? What role does the holy spirit play in our ministry?

4 In order to benefit to the full, study the material in advance and prepare to share in the congregation's discussion. Be present at each meeting, and reflect on how you can apply the lessons learned in your personal ministry. May our consideration of this exciting publication stimulate us to bear thorough witness about God's Kingdom!—Acts 28:23.

1. What will we consider at the Congregation Bible Study beginning the week of March 14?
2. Explain some of the features of the *Bearing Witness* book.
3. What important questions will our study of the book of Acts answer?
4. How may we benefit to the full from our consideration of this publication?

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WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 28

Song 5 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 18 ¶10-18 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Esther 1-5 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 93

***5* min: Announcements.**

10 min: Keep the Message Positive. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 202. Using the offer for next month, demonstrate the suggestions in the last paragraph.

10 min: Benefit From *Examining the Scriptures Daily*. Discussion based on the foreword of *Examining the Scriptures—2011.* Encourage all to consider the text each day. Invite audience to relate when they have set aside time to read the text and how they have benefited. Briefly review the yeartext for 2011. Discuss "Daily Text No Longer to Be Considered at Meetings for Field Service."

10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in March. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review some of the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

Song 33 and Prayer

Daily Text No Longer to Be Considered at Meetings for Field Service

In the past, meetings for field service might have included a brief discussion of the daily text if it related to the ministry. This is being adjusted. *Examining the Scriptures Daily* should no longer be used as a basis for discussion during meetings for service. As before, conductors may make use of the Bible, *Our Kingdom Ministry,* the *Ministry School* book, the *Reasoning* book, and other material related to the ministry. Those assigned to conduct should prepare to share something practical to help those going in the ministry that day. As in the past, the length of the meeting should be no more than 10 to 15 minutes and should be shorter if it follows a congregation meeting.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 28, 2011. The school overseer will conduct a 20-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of January 3 through February 28, 2011.

1. What work did Hezekiah initiate at the beginning of his reign, and how can we imitate him today? (2 Chron. 29:16-18) [*w09* 6/15 p. 9 par. 13]
2. How does 2 Chronicles 36:21 underscore the fulfillment of the prophecy recorded at Jeremiah 25:8-11? [*w06* 11/15 p. 32 pars. 1-4]
3. How does Ezra 3:1-6 support the Scriptural evidence that Jerusalem's 70-year desolation ended right on time? [*w06* 1/15 p. 19 par. 2]
4. Why was Ezra stunned when he learned of the intermarriage with the people of the land? (Ezra 9:1-3) [*w06* 1/15 p. 20 par. 1]
5. Who were the "majestic ones," and what attitude of theirs should we avoid? (Neh. 3:5) [*w06* 2/1 p. 10 par. 1; *w86* 2/15 p. 25]
6. How is Governor Nehemiah a fine example for Christian overseers? (Neh. 5:14-19) [*si* p. 90 par. 16]
7. Like the Israelites in Nehemiah's day, how can we avoid neglecting "the house of our God"? (Neh. 10:32-39) [*w98* 10/15 pp. 21-22 par. 12]
8. Reflecting on Nehemiah's course may cause us to ask ourselves what questions? (Neh. 13:31) [*w96* 9/15 p. 17 par. 3]
9. Did Esther have immoral intercourse with King Ahasuerus? (Esther 2:14-17) [*w91* 1/1 p. 31 par. 6]
10. Why did Mordecai refuse to bow down to Haman? (Esther 3:2, 4) [*it-2* p. 431 par. 7]

WEEK STARTING MARCH 7

Song 102 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 18 ¶19-23, box on p. 191 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Esther 6-10 (10 min.)
No. 1: Esther 7:1-10 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Does the Fact That Worship Is Given to Jesus Prove That He Is God?—*rs* p. 214 ¶6–p. 215 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why Jesus Is the Chief Agent and Perfecter of Our Faith—Heb. 12:2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 10
***5* min: Announcements.**
10 min: Teach With Persuasion. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 255-257. Briefly demonstrate one or two points from the material.
10 min: Make Good Use of Tracts. Discussion. List some of the tracts that are available locally. Consider when they might be used and why they are appealing. Invite comments from the audience on how they have been able to make good use of tracts. Include one or two demonstrations.
10 min: Local needs.
Song 35 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* Publishers may also offer *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* or *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. When making return visits on those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associating with the congregation, concentrate on starting studies using the *Bible Teach* book.

■ The special public talk for the 2011 Memorial season will be entitled "Bible Principles—Can They Help Us to Cope With Today's Problems?"

■ No meetings other than those for field service are to be held on Sunday, April 17, the day of the Memorial. Congregations that normally have a congregation meeting that day may move it to another day of the week. Where several congregations share the Kingdom Hall and a meeting cannot be rescheduled, the meeting may be canceled. In such cases, families are encouraged to consider the *Watchtower* Study material during their Family Worship evening.

Field Service Highlights

We are happy to report four new peaks in the United States branch territory for October 2010. The United States had new peaks of 136,697 regular pioneers and 717,382 Bible studies. The Turks and Caicos Islands recorded new peaks of 3,245 return visits and 7,756 hours spent in the ministry. Truly, Jehovah is speeding up the work of gathering disciples in our time.—Isa. 60:22.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM February 1

"Do you think it's really possible to know what God is like? [Allow for response.] I have something interesting on this subject." Read and discuss the material under question 2 on page 16 and one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to consider the material under question 3.

Awake!® February

"Because the Bible is such an old book, some people assume that it is scientifically inaccurate. What's your opinion? [Allow for response.] Many are surprised that the Bible says this. [Read Isaiah 40:22.] The article that begins on page 22 answers the question, Are science and the Bible compatible?"

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM March 1

"Jehovah's Witnesses are known for their preaching. Have you ever wondered why we do this work? [Allow for response.] Notice this explanation. [Read Matthew 24:14.] This magazine answers the questions: What is this good news? What is the Kingdom? And what is the end that is to come?"

Awake!® March

"Since many are battling illness, we are sharing this encouraging verse. [Read Isaiah 33:24.] When this is fulfilled, how do you think life will be different? [Allow for response.] Until God brings this change, there are basic steps that all of us can take to improve our health. This magazine explains."

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 17

Song 77 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 16 ¶7-14 (25 min)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Ezra 1-5 (10 min)
No. 1: Ezra 3:1-9 (4 min or less)
No. 2: Why Did the Jews in General Not Accept Jesus as the Messiah?—*rs* p. 211 ¶1-2 (5 min)
No. 3: How Does the Spirit Return to God?—Eccl. 12:7 (5 min)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 116
***5* min: Announcements.**
10 min: The Value of Repetition in the Ministry. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 206-207. Briefly demonstrate one or two points from the material.
20 min: "Do You Know Your Options?" Questions and answers. Use the information in paragraph 1 for the introduction and paragraph 3 for the conclusion. To be handled by an elder.
Song 7 and Prayer

Do You Know Your Options?

Bloodless surgery is being performed at an increasing number of medical centers around the world. Are you fully informed of the options that are available in the field of bloodless medicine? You need to know so that you can make informed decisions involving medical treatment and surgery. Watch the video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge.* Afterward, prayerfully review what you learned with the help of the questions set out below.—Note: Because the video includes brief surgical scenes, parents should use discretion in viewing the video with young children.

(1) What is the main reason why Jehovah's Witnesses refuse blood transfusions? **(2)** When it comes to medical care, what do Jehovah's Witnesses desire? **(3)** What basic right do patients have? **(4)** Why is it rational and responsible to choose transfusion alternatives? **(5)** When severe blood loss occurs, what two urgent priorities do doctors have? **(6)** What are the four principles of transfusion-alternative strategies? **(7)** How may doctors (a) minimize blood loss, (b) conserve red blood cells, (c) stimulate blood production, and (d) recover lost blood? **(8)** Describe the procedures known as (a) hemodilution and (b) cell salvage. **(9)** What should you want to be informed about regarding any transfusion alternative? **(10)** Can serious and complicated surgeries be performed without the use of blood transfusions? **(11)** What positive development is taking place within the medical community?

Acceptance of some of the treatments featured in the video is a matter for private decision in accord with each one's Bible-trained conscience. Have you taken a clear position on which medical treatments and procedures you are willing to accept for yourself and your children and then filled out a DPA card? For a complete discussion of these matters, carefully review "Questions From Readers" in the June 15, 2004, and October 15, 2000, issues of *The Watchtower.* Then use the work sheets in the November 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, "How Do I View Blood Fractions and Medical Procedures Involving My Own Blood?," to make your personal decisions about what options you would accept or refuse. Finally, be sure that you have accurately transferred your choices to your DPA card. Your selected health-care agents and any non-Witness family members should be fully informed of your decisions.

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WEEK STARTING JANUARY 24

Song 53 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 16 ¶15-20, box on p. 171 (25 min)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Ezra 6-10 (10 min)
No. 1: Ezra 7:1-17 (4 min or less)
No. 2: How Jesus Demonstrated His Worthiness to Rule as King (5 min)
No. 3: Is Jesus Christ Actually God?—*rs* p. 212 ¶1-2 (5 min)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 30
***5* min: Announcements.** Mention the literature offer for February, and have one presentation demonstrated.
20 min: "Help for Families."—Part 1. (Paragraphs 1-6 and the box on page 6.) Questions and answers. Encourage audience to try some of the suggestions from the box on page 6 during their next Family Worship evening. Next week, when the rest of the article is considered, they will have an opportunity to share their thoughts on how the family benefited.
10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in February. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
Song 32 and Prayer

Help for Families

1 The Sabbath observance was a loving provision from Jehovah that benefited families. Israelites rested from their regular labors and had time to reflect on Jehovah's goodness and on their relationship with him. Parents could take advantage of this opportunity to inculcate the Law into the hearts of their children. (Deut. 6:6, 7) The Sabbath provided time each week for Jehovah's people to focus attention on their spirituality.

2 Of course, Jehovah no longer requires families to observe the Sabbath. However, that law teaches us something about our God. He has always been deeply interested in the spiritual welfare of his people. (Isa. 48:17, 18) Today, one way that Jehovah expresses this loving interest is by means of the Family Worship evening.

3 **What Is the Purpose of the Family Worship Evening?** In January 2009, the Congregation Book Study began to be held on the same evening as the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. One reason for this adjustment was to give families an opportunity to fortify their spirituality by scheduling a specific evening each week for family worship. Each family was encouraged to move its family study to the night formerly used for the book study, if practical, and to use this time for unhurried Bible discussion and study tailored to the needs of the family.

4 In order to attend the Congregation Book Study, we needed time to dress, travel, and so forth. For many of us, attending this one-hour meeting took the better part of the evening. With the adjustment to our meeting

1. How did the weekly Sabbath benefit Israelite families?

2. What does the Sabbath teach us about Jehovah?

3. What is the purpose of the Family Worship evening?

4. Must the family limit their discussion to one hour? Explain.

schedule, we now have this evening to worship Jehovah as a family. Therefore, we need not limit our Family Worship evening to just one hour. Rather, we should think about the needs and limitations of our family and set the time period accordingly.

[5] **Must the Entire Time Be Spent in Group Discussion?** When married couples and families with children discuss Scriptural topics together, they encourage one another. (Rom. 1:12) The family draws closer together. Therefore, Scriptural discussions should be the centerpiece of the Family Worship evening. However, each family member could also spend time in personal study. For example, after the group discussion, the family might remain together while each individual continues to study separately, perhaps finishing his preparation for the meetings or reading the magazines. Some families choose to keep the television off the entire evening.

[6] **How May the Discussion Be Conducted?** The format need not always be a question-and-answer discussion. In order to make the Family Worship evening lively and interesting, many families have a program that is similar to our midweek meeting. They divide their discussion into several parts and handle them in a variety of ways. For example, they might read the Bible together, prepare for a portion of the meetings, and have practice sessions for the ministry. Page 6 provides some suggestions.

5. Must the entire time be spent in group discussion? Explain.

6. How may the discussion be conducted?

[7] **What Atmosphere Should Parents Strive For?** Your family will learn best in a loving, relaxed atmosphere. You might sometimes study outdoors if the weather is favorable. Feel free to take breaks when needed. Some families include refreshments after the program. While parents will avoid using the Family Worship evening to scold or discipline, they may need to devote some of the time to address a specific trend or problem that has come to their attention. However, it may be best to discuss sensitive personal issues privately with a child at another time during the week so as to avoid embarrassing him in front of his siblings. The Family Worship evening should not be a dry, somber occasion but should reflect the happy God whom we worship. —1 Tim. 1:11.

[8] **How Can the Family Head Prepare?** The family will benefit most if the family head prepares in advance for each Family Worship evening by determining what should be discussed and how best to consider it. (Prov. 21:5) A husband does well to consult with his wife regarding this. (Prov. 15:22) Family heads, why not also occasionally ask your children for their recommendations? If you do, you will gain valuable insight into their interests and concerns.

[9] On most weeks the family head will not have to spend extensive time preparing. Likely, the family will enjoy having certain regular features each week, and the family head will not

7. What atmosphere should parents strive for?

8, 9. What preparation is required of family heads?

need to come up with an entirely new program every time. He may find it advantageous to prepare after each study while his family's spiritual needs are fresh in mind. Some family heads write out a brief agenda and post it where the family can easily see it, such as on the refrigerator. This creates excitement and anticipation and gives the family time to prepare if needed.

[10] **What If I Am the Only One in My Family?** Those who live alone can use the Family Worship evening for personal study. A good basic personal study program should include reading the Bible, preparing for meetings, and reading *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Some publishers supplement this with a personal study project. On occasion, they may wish to invite another publisher or family to join them for an upbuilding Scriptural discussion.

The Family Worship evening should not be a dry, somber occasion but should reflect the happy God whom we worship

[11] **What Are the Benefits of Having a Regular Family Worship Evening?** Those who wholeheartedly engage in true worship draw closer to Jehovah. Additionally, families who worship together strengthen family bonds. One married couple wrote regarding the blessings they have enjoyed: "As a pioneer couple without children, we really look forward to our Family Worship night. We feel like we are drawing closer to each other and to our heavenly Father. Now when we wake up on the day that we have scheduled to study together, we say to each other: 'Guess what tonight is? Family Worship night!' "

[12] The arrangement of having an evening for family worship also helps busy families. One single mother who is raising two sons and regular pioneering wrote: "In the past, our family study suffered. It was sporadic and inconsistent because I was tired. I just couldn't figure out how to fit it in. So I am writing you to thank you so very much for the Family Worship evening. We have been successfully having a regular family study and experiencing the benefits."

[13] Like the Sabbath, the Family Worship evening is a gift from our heavenly Father that can help families. (Jas. 1:17) The way that Israelite families used the Sabbath determined how much they benefited spiritually. Similarly, how we use the evening that we have been given for family worship determines how much our family will benefit. (2 Cor. 9:6; Gal. 6:7, 8; Col. 3:23, 24) By making good use of this arrangement, your family can echo the sentiments of the psalmist: "But as for me, the drawing near to God is good for me. In the Sovereign Lord Jehovah I have placed my refuge." —Ps. 73:28.

10. How can those who live alone use their Family Worship evening?

11, 12. What are some of the benefits of having a regular Family Worship evening?

13. What determines how much your family will benefit from this arrangement?

SAVE

Some Ideas for the Family Worship Evening

Bible:

- Read a portion of the weekly Bible reading together. If the material lends itself to doing so, one person can read the narration, and others can read the words of the different characters.
- Reenact a portion of the Bible reading.
- Assign each member of the family to read the designated Bible chapters in advance and to make note of one or two questions that he has on the material. Then research everyone's questions together.
- Each week prepare a flash card with a Bible verse on it and try to memorize and explain it. Build up a collection of cards, and review them weekly to see how many scriptures you remember.
- Listen to an audio recording of the Bible reading while following along in the Bible.

Meetings:

- Prepare together for a portion of the meetings.
- Practice the Kingdom songs scheduled for the coming week.
- If someone has a talk on the Theocratic Ministry School or a demonstration on the Service Meeting, discuss ideas for presenting it or rehearse it in front of the family.

Needs of the Family:

- Consider material from the *Young People Ask* or *Learn From the Great Teacher* books.
- Have a practice session on how to handle a situation that is likely to arise at school.
- Have a practice session where the parents and children reverse roles. The children research a subject and then reason with the parents.

Ministry:

- Have practice sessions to prepare presentations for the weekend.
- Discuss realistic goals the family can set to expand their share in the ministry during the Memorial season or vacation time.
- Allow each family member a few minutes to research how to answer different questions that may arise in the ministry, and then have practice sessions.

Additional Suggestions:

- Read together an article from the current magazines.
- Have each family member read in advance an article that intrigues him from the current magazines, and then have him give a report on it.
- Occasionally invite a publisher or couple to join you for your Family Worship evening, and perhaps interview them.
- Watch and discuss one of our videos.
- Discuss together "Young People Ask" or "For Family Review" from *Awake!*
- Discuss together "Teach Your Children" or "For Young People" from *The Watchtower.*
- Read and discuss a portion of the current *Yearbook* or a release from the last district convention.
- After attending a convention or assembly, review the highlights.
- Observe Jehovah's creation firsthand, and discuss what it teaches us about Jehovah.
- Work on a project together, such as a model, a map, or a chart.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 31

Song 99 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cf chap. 17 ¶1-9 (25 min)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Nehemiah 1-4 (10 min)

No. 1: Nehemiah 2:11-20 (4 min or less)

No. 2: Does John 1:1 Prove That Jesus Is God?—*rs* p. 212 ¶4-6 (5 min)

No. 3: Ways in Which We Heed Jesus' Words at Matthew 22:21 (5 min)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 52

5 min: Announcements.

20 min: "Help for Families."—Part 2. (Paragraphs 7-13) Questions and answers. Invite audience to comment on how their family benefited from applying some of the suggestions on page 6.

10 min: "Train Your Children to Be Ministers." Questions and answers. Invite audience to comment on specific ways their parents helped them to set and reach progressive goals in the ministry.

Song 88 and Prayer

Train Your Children to Be Ministers

1 Jehovah invites young ones to praise him. (Ps. 148:12, 13) Christian parents, therefore, do more than teach their children Bible truths and God's moral laws. They also train them to be ministers of the good news. How can this be done progressively?

2 **Good Example:** Judge Gideon told his 300 men: "Learn from watching me." (Judg. 7:17) Children naturally watch and imitate their parents. One father works at night, but instead of going to sleep when he comes home Saturday morning, he takes his children in the ministry even though he is very tired. Without saying a word, he is teaching them that the ministry is a priority. (Matt. 6:33) Do your children observe you joyfully engaging in various forms of worship, such as praying, reading the Bible, commenting, and preaching? Of course, you will not be a *perfect* example. But your children will be more inclined to respond to your efforts to teach them to worship Jehovah if they see your diligence in serving him.—Deut. 6:6, 7; Rom. 2:21, 22.

3 **Progressive Goals:** Parents tirelessly train their children to walk, to talk, to dress themselves, and so forth. As children reach milestones in their growth, new goals are put before them. If the parents are Christians, they also help their children set and reach *spiritual* goals in accord with their age and abilities. (1 Cor. 9:26) Are you teaching your children to give comments in their own words and to prepare their own talks in the Theocratic Ministry School? (Ps. 35:18) Are you training them to engage in various aspects of the ministry? Are you setting before them the goal of baptism and full-time service? Are you actively bringing them into contact with joyful, enthusiastic evangelizers who will encourage them? —Prov. 13:20.

4 The psalmist said: "O God, you have taught me from my youth on, and until now I keep telling about your wonderful works." (Ps. 71:17) Begin training your children at an early age to become ministers. The spiritual foundation that you help them lay is sure to benefit them into adulthood!—Prov. 22:6.

1. What does Psalm 148:12, 13 compel Christian parents to do?
2. How can a parent's good example affect his children?
3. What progressive spiritual goals should parents help their children to set and reach?
4. How do children benefit from having parents who begin training them in the ministry at an early age?

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 7

Song 25 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cf chap. 17 ¶10-15 (25 min)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Nehemiah 5-8 (10 min)
No. 1: Nehemiah 6:1-13 (4 min or less)
No. 2: What Can We Learn About Hospitality From Lydia, Gaius, and Philemon? (5 min)
No. 3: Does Thomas' Exclamation at John 20:28 Prove That Jesus Is Truly God?—*rs* p. 213 ¶1-3 (5 min)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 92
5 min: Announcements.
10 min: Are You Using Your Gift in the Ministry? Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 75, paragraph 4, to page 76, paragraph 2.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: Be Accurate in Your Preaching and Teaching. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 223, paragraphs 1-5.
Song 13 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* If householders already have the book, congregations that have a stock of *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* and *Worship the Only True God* may offer either of these books. Otherwise, publishers may offer any older field publications on hand in the congregation. **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* Publishers may also offer *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* or *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a diligent effort to start Bible studies. **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associating with the congregation, concentrate on starting studies using the *Bible Teach* book.

■ Starting in February, the new public talk for the circuit overseers will be "How Does the Truth Affect Your Life?"

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed for spring cleaning on Friday, May 13, 2011. There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on this day.

Field Service Highlights

We are pleased to report two new all-time peaks for the United States in September—135,825 regular pioneers and 705,794 Bible studies. Additionally, the Turks and Caicos Islands had a new peak of 7,505 hours spent in the ministry. Indeed, Jehovah's people are busy in this life-saving teaching work! —1 Tim. 4:16.

What to Say About the Magazines

The Watchtower® January 1

Read Genesis 2:16, 17. Then say: "Some say that God knew in advance that Adam would sin. Others feel that God's warning would've been hypocritical if he already knew the outcome. What do you think? [Allow for response.] This article that begins on page 13 explains how God uses his ability to know the future."

Awake!® January

"Some believe that religious faith is based more on emotion than on sound reason. What do you think? [Allow for response.] According to the Bible, religious faith should not be blind. [Read 1 John 4:1.] The article that begins on page 28 explains how to make sure that our faith is based firmly on reason."

The Watchtower® February 1

"Divorce is very common today. What do you think is the main cause of this? [Allow for response.] Notice this advice that many couples have found helpful. [Read 1 Corinthians 10:24.] This magazine considers six common complaints made by husbands and wives and shows how applying Bible principles can help."

Awake!® February

"There seems to be a growing interest in vampires, witches, and sorcerers. Do you think that involvement in the occult is harmless? [Allow for response.] Notice this warning God gave to ancient Israel. [Read Deuteronomy 18:10-12.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about the occult."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MARCH 2011

WEEK STARTING MARCH 14

Song 101 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 1 ¶1-9, letter on p. 2 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Job 1-5 (10 min.)

No. 1: Job 3:1-26 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Can We Learn From the Example of Zelophehad's Daughters? —Num. 36:10-12 (5 min.)

No. 3: Do the Miracles Performed by Jesus Prove That He Is God?—*rs* p. 215 ¶3–p. 216 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 130

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Riches Come From Serving Jehovah. (Prov. 10:22) Discussion based on the *2010 Yearbook,* page 225, paragraph 1, to page 226, paragraph 2; pages 227-228; and page 232, paragraph 1, to page 233, paragraph 1. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

15 min: "Let Us Show Our Appreciation." Questions and answers. Outline local arrangements for the Memorial.

Song 8 and Prayer

Let Us Show Our Appreciation

Memorial to Be Observed on April 17

[1] Moved by Jehovah's many acts of mercy and deliverance, the psalmist asked: "What shall I repay to Jehovah for all his benefits to me?" (Ps. 116:12) Today, God's servants have even more reason for gratitude. Centuries after these inspired words were penned, Jehovah gave mankind its greatest gift—the ransom. As we prepare to commemorate Christ's death on April 17, we have good reason to show ourselves thankful.—Col. 3:15.

[2] **Ransom Blessings:** By means of the ransom, we are able to receive "the forgiveness of our sins." (Col. 1:13, 14) This enables us to worship Jehovah with a clean conscience. (Heb. 9:13, 14) We can enjoy freeness of speech with Jehovah when we approach him in prayer. (Heb. 4:14-16) Those who exercise faith in the ransom have the grand prospect of everlasting life!—John 3:16.

[3] **Demonstrate Appreciation:** One way to show our deep appreciation is to consider the Memorial Bible reading each day and meditate on it. The February 1, 2011, *Watchtower* article entitled "Are You Prepared for the Most Important Day of the Year?" was designed to help us do this. We can also tell Jehovah through heartfelt prayer how much we value the ransom. (1 Thess. 5:17, 18) Our being present at the Memorial observance in obedience to Jesus' command shows thankfulness. (1 Cor. 11: 24, 25) Furthermore, we can imitate Jehovah's expansive love and invite as many as possible to attend with us.—Isa. 55:1-3.

[4] Appreciative servants of Jehovah will not treat the Memorial observance as just another meeting. It is the most important meeting of the year! As the Memorial approaches, may our determination be like that of the psalmist who wrote: "Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and do not forget all his doings."—Ps. 103:2.

1. What sentiment of the psalmist is especially appropriate during the Memorial season?
2. What are some reasons why we appreciate the ransom?
3. How can we show our appreciation to Jehovah for the ransom?
4. What should be our determination?

WEEK STARTING MARCH 21

Song 47 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

bt chap. 1 ¶10-15, chart on p. 12 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Job 6-10 (10 min.)

No. 1: Job 8:1-22 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Is Believing in Jesus Christ All That Is Required for Salvation?—*rs* p. 216 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Can We Apply the Counsel Recorded at Matthew 10:16? (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 114

***5 min:* Announcements.**

***15 min:* Use the Bible When Replying.** Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 143-144. Have two demonstrations showing a publisher being asked a question that might arise in the local territory. In the first demonstration, he gives the correct answer but without referring to the Bible. In the second demonstration, he uses the Bible to give the answer. Invite audience to comment on why the second approach was better.

***15 min:* "Distribution of Memorial Invitations Starts April 2."** Questions and answers. Distribute a copy of the Memorial invitation to all publishers, and review the contents. Outline arrangements for covering the local territory. Demonstrate a presentation.

Song 109 and Prayer

Distribution of Memorial Invitations Starts April 2

[1] From April 2 to April 17, we will distribute invitations to the most important event of the year—the Memorial of Christ's death. In the past, many interested ones have responded to this annual campaign. For example, on the day of the Memorial, a woman called the branch office and said: "I just came home, and there was an invitation under my door. I want to go, but I am not sure of the time." The brother explained where this information could be found on the invitation. The woman concluded her conversation by promising, "I am going to your event tonight!"

[2] **How We Will Do It:** Since we have a limited time to cover the territory, it is best to be brief. We might say: "Hello. We want to give your family this invitation to an important annual observance that will be held worldwide on Sunday, April 17. [Hand the invitation to the householder.] That date is the anniversary of Jesus' death. A free Bible talk will be given that explains how we can benefit from Christ's ransom. This invitation shows the address and time of the meeting being held in our community."

[3] If the congregation has a large territory, the elders may direct you to leave the invitations at not-at-homes, provided that they can be placed completely out of sight. Be sure to invite your return visits, relatives, workmates, schoolmates, and other acquaintances. When sharing in the distribution on the weekends, offer the magazines whenever appropriate. Could you auxiliary pioneer during April and have a greater share in this enjoyable campaign?

[4] What a powerful witness interested attenders will receive! They will hear of Jehovah's great love in providing the ransom. (John 3:16) They will learn how God's Kingdom will benefit mankind. (Isa. 65:21-23) They will also be invited to approach the attendants and request a Bible study to learn more. It is our prayer that many honesthearted ones will respond to this campaign and join us for the Memorial!

1. When will we distribute Memorial invitations this year, and what is the value of this annual campaign?
2. What could we say when presenting the invitation?
3. How can we invite as many people as possible?
4. Why do we want interested ones to attend the Memorial?

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WEEK STARTING MARCH 28

Song 45 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 1 ¶16-21 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Job 11-15 (10 min.)
No. 1: Job 13:1-28 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Jesus Is "Lord of the Sabbath"—Matt. 12:8 (5 min.)
No. 3: Did Jesus Have a Heavenly Existence Before He Became a Human?—*rs* p. 216 ¶4–p. 217 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 2
***5 min:* Announcements.** Mention the literature offer for April, and have one demonstration showing how to start a Bible study when making a return visit on someone who accepted magazines.
10 min: Supporting Kingdom Activity Locally and Worldwide. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 127 to page 129, paragraph 2.
10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in April. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
10 min: "Were You Once a Regular Pioneer?" Questions and answers. If available, a pioneer who stopped pioneering and then resumed when his or her circumstances changed may be briefly interviewed. What enabled the publisher to pioneer again? What blessings have been enjoyed?
Song 6 and Prayer

Were You Once a Regular Pioneer?

[1] Over the years, thousands have enjoyed the privilege of "teaching and declaring the good news" as full-time ministers. (Acts 5:42) Some, however, have had to discontinue pioneering for various reasons. If you were once a regular pioneer, have you examined your present circumstances to see if you can rejoin the pioneer ranks?

1. What privilege have many enjoyed, but what has become necessary for some?

[2] **Circumstances Change:** It may be that the situation that caused you to stop pioneering no longer exists. For example, if you discontinued pioneering because you could not meet the requirement of 90 hours a month, could you resume now that the requirement has been reduced to 70? Have your employment needs or family responsibilities lessened since the time you left the pioneer ranks? One sister who stopped pioneering for health reasons was able to resume at age 89. She had not been in the hospital for over a year and felt that her health would allow her to pioneer again!

[3] Perhaps you are not a former pioneer, but someone in your family stopped pioneering to provide care for a family member, such as an aged parent. (1 Tim. 5:4, 8) If so, could you or others in the family do more to assist? Why not discuss matters together? (Prov. 15:22) When family members cooperate so that one of them can pioneer, all can rightly feel that they are having a share.

[4] Do not be discouraged if your present circumstances do not allow you to start pioneering again. Your readiness to do so pleases Jehovah. (2 Cor. 8:12) Use the skills you acquired as a pioneer in your present ministry. Make your desire a matter of prayer, and be alert for opportunities to adjust your circumstances. (1 John 5:14) Perhaps, in time, Jehovah will open to you "a large door that leads to activity" so that you can once again experience the joys of regular pioneering! —1 Cor. 16:9.

2. Why should those who pioneered in the past consider their present circumstances?
3. How may family members cooperate to help someone in their family to pioneer?
4. What if you are unable to rejoin the pioneer ranks at this time?

WEEK STARTING APRIL 4

Song 116 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

bt chap. 2 ¶1-7, box on p. 13 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Job 16-20 (10 min.)

No. 1: Job 18:1-21 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Does Jesus Have His Fleshly Body in Heaven?—*rs* p. 217 ¶2-5 (5 min.)

No. 3: Why Enlightened Rulers Praise Jehovah's Witnesses—Rom. 13:3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 34

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: Make Good Use of the *2011 Yearbook*. Discussion. Review "A Letter From the Governing Body." Arrange in advance for some to relate an encouraging experience from the *Yearbook*. Invite audience to comment on outstanding aspects of the worldwide report. Conclude by encouraging all to complete their reading of the *Yearbook*.

15 min: Local needs.

Song 103 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book and do not accept a Bible study, offer an older magazine or any brochure that addresses the person's interest. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. When making return visits on those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associating with the congregation, concentrate on starting studies using the *Bible Teach* book. **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book, congregations that have a stock of *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* and *Worship the Only True God* may offer either of these books. Otherwise, offer any older field publications on hand in the congregation.

■ When witnessing to someone who speaks Chinese, show him the pages in the *Nations* booklet where Chinese (Traditional) (CH) and Chinese (Simplified) (CHS) appear, in order to determine what he prefers to *read*. As a general rule, people from Hong Kong or Taiwan prefer to read literature in Chinese (Traditional) (CH), whereas those from China usually prefer Chinese (Simplified) (CHS). With regard to *video or audio* publications, though, give consideration to which dialect the householder speaks and understands best. Generally, people from both China and Taiwan understand Chinese (Mandarin) (CHM), whereas those from Hong Kong understand Chinese (Cantonese) (CHC).

■ The video program *Jehovah's Witnesses—Organized to Share the Good News* will be considered at a Service Meeting in August. If needed, copies should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM March 1

"There are conflicting opinions about Jesus. Do you view him as God's son or as just a good man?" Allow for response. Then read together the material under one of the bold questions on pages 16-17 and one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to consider the answer to the next question.

Awake!® March

When meeting a young person, show the article that begins on page 26. Point to the first subheading and ask, "Would you say these statements are true or false? [Allow for response. Then read 2 Corinthians 7:1.] This discusses what you need to know about smoking, including how to quit."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM April 1

"Many people hold widely varying beliefs about Jesus. Do you think that it is important to know the truth about him? [Allow for response. Then read John 17:3.] This magazine explains what the Bible says about Jesus—where he came from, how he lived, and why he died."

Awake!® April

"Would you agree that losing a loved one in death is one of the most difficult experiences a human can face? [Allow for response.] Many have found this advice helpful. [Read Psalm 55:22.] This magazine discusses some practical ways to cope with grief, including how to throw our burden on God."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

APRIL 2011

WEEK STARTING APRIL 11

Song 44 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 2 ¶8-15 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Job 21-27 (10 min.)
No. 1: Job 25:1–26:14 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why the Cross Should Not Be Viewed as an Object of Devotion (5 min.)
No. 3: Is Jesus Christ the Same Person as Michael the Archangel?—*rs* p. 218 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 98
***5 min:* Announcements.** Inform the congregation of the local progress being made in the Memorial invitation campaign.
10 min: Sow Your Seed, and Do Not Let Your Hand Rest. (Eccl. 11:6) Discussion based on the *2011 Yearbook,* page 170, paragraph 2, to page 173, paragraph 4. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: How to Witness by Letter. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 71-73.
10 min: "A Powerful Witness Will Be Given." Questions and answers.
Song 8 and Prayer

A Powerful Witness Will Be Given

[1] When? On the night of the Memorial. Much effort has gone into inviting people to attend with us. What visitors *hear* is not the only thing that may impress them. After attending the Memorial, one woman specifically commented on what she *saw* —the friendliness of everyone and the beautiful, clean building that was constructed and maintained by volunteers. Therefore, all of us, not just the speaker, share in giving a witness on this most important occasion of the year.—Eph. 4:16.

1. In addition to the talk, what else may impress visitors at the Memorial? Explain.

[2] **Warmly Greet Visitors:** Our warm smile along with a cheerful hello to visitors will give a witness. (John 13:35) Even if you are not able to speak to everyone, you can still warmly introduce yourself to people near you. (Heb. 13:1, 2) Be watchful for visitors who do not seem to know anyone. Likely they received an invitation during the campaign. You might ask, "Is this your first time here?" Invite them to sit with you, and offer to answer any questions they may have. If your congregation must leave quickly so that another congregation can use the facility, you might say: "I'd like to know what you thought of the program. Is there a way that I can contact you?"

[3] **Welcome the Inactive:** No doubt, inactive publishers will be present, including some who limit their association with the congregation to their annual attendance at the Memorial. Welcome them, and let them know that you are genuinely happy to see them. (Rom. 15:7) Elders can go by their home soon afterward to encourage them to continue their association with the congregation. It is our prayer that many in attendance will be moved to glorify God not just because of what they hear but also because of what they see 'as a result of our fine works of which they are eyewitnesses.' —1 Pet. 2:12.

2. How may each of us give a witness to visitors?

3. How may we welcome those who are inactive?

WEEK STARTING APRIL 18

Song 17 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 2 ¶16-23 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Job 28-32 (10 min.)
No. 1: Job 30:1-23 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: ***If Someone Says:*** **"You Don't Believe in Jesus"**—*rs* p. 219 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: **Why We Should Think Before We Speak**—Prov. 16:23 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 54
5 min: **Announcements.**
10 min: **When Others Demand an Explanation.** Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 177, paragraph 2, to the end of page 178. Include a brief demonstration of an unbelieving workmate asking a publisher a question about our beliefs. The publisher soliloquizes a mental outline of how he will respond and then answers the question.
10 min: **Question Box.** Discussion by an elder.
10 min: **Methods of Preaching the Good News—From House to House.** Discussion of *Organized* book, page 92, paragraph 3, to page 95, paragraph 2. Interview one or two publishers who preach from house to house despite obstacles, such as physical infirmities or shyness. How have their efforts been rewarded?
Song 26 and Prayer

QUESTION BOX

■ How long should we study with a progressive Bible student?

It is best to continue studying with a progressive Bible student until he has completed two publications—*What Does the Bible Really Teach?* and *"Keep Yourselves in God's Love."* This is true even if the student gets baptized before finishing both books. After his baptism we may continue to report the time, the return visits, and the study. If a publisher accompanies us and participates in the study, he may also count the time.—See the March 2009 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 2.

It is important for new ones to have a good foundation in the truth

It is important for new ones to have a good foundation in the truth before they are left on their own. They need to be "rooted" in Christ and "stabilized in the faith" so as to withstand the trials they are sure to face. (Col. 2:6, 7; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9) Additionally, to teach others effectively, they must have "an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) By completing two books with our students, we are helping them attain a solid footing on "the road leading off into life." —Matt. 7:14.

Before approving someone for baptism, elders should ensure that he *clearly understands primary Bible teachings and is living in harmony with them.* Elders should be especially careful when considering a student who has not yet completed the first study book. If someone is not ready for baptism, the elders will make sure that he receives the necessary personal assistance in order to qualify for baptism in the future.—See *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* pages 217-218.

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WEEK STARTING APRIL 25

Song 108 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

bt chap. 3 ¶1-3, boxes on pp. 23-27 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Job 33-37 (10 min.)

Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 117

5 min: Announcements. "Use Them Rather Than Store Them." Talk. Inform audience of any older publications that are overstocked in the congregation.

30 min: "Three Days of Spiritual Refreshment." Questions and answers. Discuss "2011 District Convention Reminders." When considering paragraph 5, call on the service overseer to explain local arrangements for distributing the invitations.

Song 119 and Prayer

Use Them Rather Than Store Them

Many congregations have accumulated a supply of older publications. Why not obtain copies for your personal theocratic library? Of course, likely you already have access to the contents of some of these older publications in *Watchtower Library.* However, there are benefits to having a hard copy too. Are you studying with a progressive Bible student? Then encourage him to obtain these older publications and begin building his personal library. The Theocratic Ministry School overseer should make sure that the Kingdom Hall library contains any older publications that the congregation has in stock. These publications still have value. It is better for us to make use of them than to leave them at the congregation's literature counter!

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 25, 2011. The school overseer will conduct a 20-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of March 7 through April 25, 2011.

1. In what sense was it that "many of the peoples of the land were declaring themselves Jews"? (Esther 8:17) [*w06* 3/1 p. 11 par. 3]
2. Why was Satan allowed to enter before Jehovah? (Job 1:6; 2:1) [*w06* 3/15 p. 13 par. 6; *it-2* p. 16 par. 4]
3. What is implied by Satan's question, "Is it for nothing that Job has feared God"? (Job 1:9) [*w94* 11/15 p. 11 par. 6]
4. Why does knowing that Jehovah is "wise in heart and strong in power" instill confidence in us? (Job 9:4) [*w07* 5/15 p. 25 par. 16; *it-2* p. 1190 par. 3]
5. In what way did the statement by Eliphaz that a man drinks in "unrighteousness just like water" reflect Satanic thinking? (Job 15:16) [*w10* 2/15 p. 20 pars. 1-2]
6. What can we learn from Job's strong outcry that we read at Job 19:2? [*w94* 10/1 p. 32 pars. 1-5]
7. What helped Job to maintain his integrity? (Job 27:5) [*w09* 4/15 p. 6 par. 17]
8. How can we imitate Job when others have a need? (Job 29:12, 13) [*w02* 5/15 p. 22 par. 19; *w94* 9/15 p. 24 par. 2]
9. In what way was Elihu's counsel different from that of Job's three other companions? (Job 33:1, 6) [*w95* 2/15 p. 29 par. 3]
10. How should reflecting on Jehovah's wonderful works affect us? (Job 37:14) [*w06* 3/15 p. 16 par. 4]

Three Days of Spiritual Refreshment

[1] In this spiritually scorched land that is Satan's world, Jehovah continues to refresh his servants. (Isa. 58:11) One provision Jehovah uses to invigorate us is the annual district convention. As the convention for this year approaches, how may we prepare to receive and impart spiritual refreshment? —Prov. 21:5.

[2] If you have not already done so, take time now to arrange your personal and secular work schedules to be present for all three days of the convention. Have you calculated the time that you will need to travel to the convention site each day so that you can arrive and locate seating well before the program begins? We would certainly not want to miss any of the invigorating spiritual meal that Jehovah has prepared for us! (Isa. 65:13, 14) Have your arrangements for lodging and transportation been completed?

As in the past, three weeks before the start of our convention, we will share in a campaign to invite others to attend

[3] What will help you to keep your mind from wandering during the sessions? If possible, get plenty of rest each night during the convention. Focus your eyes on the speaker. Look up every scripture in your Bible. Take brief notes. Families do well to sit together so that parents can help their children to pay close attention. (Prov. 29: 15) Perhaps you can discuss highlights of the program each evening as a family. So that your family can continue to be refreshed even after the convention, time could be allotted during your Family Worship evening to consider specific points for your family to apply.

[4] **Help Others Gain Refreshment:** We want others to receive spiritual refreshment too. Are there elderly publishers or others in

1. What can we expect to receive from this year's district convention?
2. What preparations do we need to finalize?
3. What suggestions will help us and our family to benefit fully from the program?
4. How can we help others in our congregation to receive spiritual refreshment?

2011 District Convention Reminders

■ **Program Times:** The program will begin at 9:20 a.m. all three days. The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. When the introductory music is announced, all of us should go to our seats so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The program will conclude at 4:55 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 3:40 p.m. on Sunday.

■ **Parking:** At all convention sites where we control the parking, the spaces will be available to attendees at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Only those with a state-approved license plate or placard for the disabled will be allowed to park in the area reserved for them. Parking is usually limited, so carpooling should be done to the extent possible.

■ **Seat Saving:** Seats may be saved only for those living in our home or traveling in our vehicle or for our current Bible students.—1 Cor. 13:5.

■ **Noon Meal:** Please bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. A small cooler that can be placed under a seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers and glass containers are not permitted in the convention facility.

■ **Donations:** We can show our appreciation for the convention arrangements by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at the convention. Any checks should be made

the congregation who need assistance in order to attend the convention? Are you in a position to help them? (1 John 3:17, 18) Elders, especially group overseers, should see that such publishers receive the needed assistance.

[5] As in the past, three weeks before the start of our convention, we will share in a campaign to invite others to attend. Congregations should set a goal to distribute their allotment of invitations and cover as much of their territory as possible. Invitations that your family has left over at the end of the campaign should be brought to the convention for you to use when witnessing informally. Further information on this will be provided during the program on Friday. Invitations that your family does not expect to use while in the convention city should be given to an attendant when you enter the facility. Please keep one copy for yourself, as you will need to refer to it during the last talk on Sunday.

[6] **Good Manners Refresh:** At a time when many people are "lovers of themselves" and show a lack of regard for the feelings of others, how refreshing it is to be around fellow Christians who endeavor to display good manners! (2 Tim. 3:2) We show good manners by entering the building in a calm and orderly way when it opens at 8:00 a.m. and by saving seats only for those living in our home or traveling in our vehicle or for our current Bible students. We follow the chairman's direction when he

How Will We Offer the Invitation?

In order to cover our territory, we should be brief. We might say something like this: "Hello. We are sharing in a global effort to distribute this invitation. Here is your copy. You will find more details on the invitation." The front of the invitation is interest-arousing, so hand it to the householder in such a way that he can see it. Be enthusiastic. When sharing in the distribution on the weekends, the magazines should also be offered when appropriate.

5. How will we distribute invitations to the convention? (See also the box above.)
6. In what ways can we display good manners at the convention?

payable to "Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses."

■ **Accidents and Emergencies:** If a medical emergency arises at the convention site, please contact a nearby attendant, who will immediately notify First Aid so that our qualified first-aid personnel can assess the seriousness of the situation and render assistance. If it is necessary, our first-aid personnel will call 911. This will prevent emergency-response services from receiving many cell-phone calls.

■ **Medication:** If you require prescription medication, please be sure to bring an adequate supply with you, since none will be available at the convention.

■ **Footwear:** Each year a number of injuries occur that are related to footwear. It is best to choose modest, well-fitting shoes that will allow one to walk safely on ramps, stairs, gratings, and so forth.

■ **Hearing Impaired:** The program will be broadcast in the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. To receive it, you will need to bring a small battery-operated FM receiver with earphones.

■ **Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs:** Baby strollers and lawn chairs should not be brought to the convention site. However, child-safety seats are acceptable if they can be secured in a seat next to the parents.

■ **Fragrances:** Most conventions take place in enclosed areas with mechanical ventilation. Therefore, it would be loving on our part to limit the use of strong fragrances, colognes,

requests that we go to our seats to listen to the musical interlude introducing each session. It shows good manners to set our cell phone or pager so as not to distract others during the program. We also display good manners by not talking, texting, eating, or roaming the corridors needlessly during the program.

[7] **Refreshing Association:** Conventions give us extended opportunities to enjoy our refreshing Christian unity and brotherhood. (Ps. 133:1-3) Why not take the initiative to "widen out" and meet brothers and sisters who are present from other congregations? (2 Cor. 6:13) You might make it a goal to get to know at least one new person or new family each day. The midday break affords a good opportunity to do this. So bring a light lunch and enjoy eating and associating with others on the premises rather than leaving to purchase food or to eat in a nearby restaurant. This may lead to the blessing of new and lasting friendships.

7. How may we receive and give refreshment while associating with our brothers?

Our dress and grooming at the convention site, at our place of lodging, and at restaurants should honor Jehovah

[8] How refreshing it is to work alongside fellow worshippers in sacred service! Could you volunteer to assist a department or help your congregation with its cleaning assignment? (Ps. 110:3) If you do not already have a work assignment, please consider approaching the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Many hands make the work joyful and light.

[9] **Our Conduct Is Refreshing to Observers:** We are convention delegates during all three days of the convention, not just during the program. Those who observe us while we are in the convention city should be able to see a refreshing contrast between us and non-Witnesses. (1 Pet. 2:12) Our dress and grooming at the convention site, at our place of lodging, and at restaurants should honor Jehovah. (1 Tim. 2:9, 10) If we wear our lapel badges, onlookers will be able to

8. Why should we volunteer to work at the convention, and how can we do so?

9. Why should we give particular attention to our conduct and appearance during the convention?

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and perfumes that may cause reactions in persons with respiratory or related problems. —1 Cor. 10:24.

■ ***Please Follow Up* (S-43) Forms:** A *Please Follow Up* form should be used to provide information regarding any interest from informal witnessing during the convention. Publishers should bring one or two forms to the convention. Completed forms may be submitted to the Book Room or given to the congregation secretary on your return.—See the November 2009 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4.

■ **Restaurants:** Honor Jehovah's name by your fine conduct at restaurants. Leave a tip if this is customary.

■ **Hotels:**

(1) Please do not reserve more rooms than you will actually use, and do not have more people stay in your room than what is allowed.

(2) Do not cancel your reservation except for an emergency situation, and notify the hotel as soon as it occurs.—Matt. 5:37.

(3) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it, and return it immediately so that others may use it.

(4) Cook only in rooms where cooking is permitted.

(5) Tip hotel workers when they carry your luggage, and leave a tip for the housekeeper each day.

(6) Do not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, or ice provisions that are made available for guests to use while they are at the hotel.

identify us as Jehovah's Witnesses. This may provide us with an opportunity to tell them about our convention and give a further witness.

[10] How may we cooperate with hotel and restaurant workers? We should not reserve more hotel rooms than we will actually use, as this prevents other delegates from obtaining rooms and makes it very difficult for the hotel to replace the lost business. If the hotel is busy at the time that we check in or check out, we should demonstrate patience and graciousness. (Col. 4:6) We should give the customary tip to servers at restaurants and to hotel workers who carry our bags, clean our room, and provide other services.

Be resolved to refresh others through your good manners, joyful association, and fine conduct

[11] What impression does our good conduct during the convention make on others? According to a newspaper article, the manager of one facility used for conventions said this: "The people are very polite. We're excited to have them every year." Last year a non-Witness lost his wallet at a hotel used by convention delegates. When the wallet was returned to the hotel manager with all its contents intact, the manager told the owner: "It was a good thing for you that Jehovah's Witnesses were attending their convention nearby, and the hotel was full of them. Otherwise you would probably not have had the wallet returned."

[12] This year's conventions are fast approaching. Much time and effort have gone into making the program and the convention environment refreshing. Make it your aim to be present all three days, and be prepared for what Jehovah and his organization have in store for you. Be resolved to refresh others through your good manners, joyful association, and fine conduct. Then you and others may feel as did one of last year's delegates who wrote, "I cannot recall a more satisfying experience!"

10. How may we ensure that hotel and restaurant workers have a positive view of our convention?

11. What experiences illustrate the good witness that results from our Christian conduct?

12. As the convention approaches, what should be our aim, and why?

(7) Display the fruitage of the spirit in dealing with the hotel staff at all times. They are caring for a large number of guests and appreciate our kindness, patience, and reasonableness.

(8) The room rate shown on the *Recommended Lodging List* is the full price per day, excluding tax. If you are overcharged or billed for things you did not request or use, refuse these charges and inform the Rooming Department at the convention as soon as possible.

(9) If a problem arises with your hotel room, inform the Rooming Department while at the convention so they can assist you.

(10) Please also note that if you use a debit or credit card when registering at a hotel, it is standard practice for a hold to be placed on enough funds in your account to cover your total room cost, plus any possible damages or incidentals during your stay. You will not be able to use any of those funds until your account is settled within a few days after you depart.

■ **Volunteer Service:** The happiness we gain from attending the convention will be even greater if we volunteer to assist with the necessary work involved. (Acts 20:35) Any who wish to do so should report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent or guardian or other adult approved by a parent or guardian.

WEEK STARTING MAY 2

Song 99 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 3 ¶4-11 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Job 38-42 (10 min.)

No. 1: Job 40:1-24 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Benefits From Being Mild-Tempered and Patient (5 min.)

No. 3: ***If Someone Says:*** **"Do You Accept Jesus as Your Personal Savior?"**—*rs* p. 219 ¶4-5 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 82

10 min: Announcements. Using the sample presentation on this page, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in May. Encourage all to have a share.

15 min: Local needs.

10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in May. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review some of the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

Song 91 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. When making return visits on those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associating with the congregation, concentrate on starting studies using the *Bible Teach* book. **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book, congregations that have a stock of *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* and *Worship the Only True God* may offer either of these books. Otherwise, offer any older field publications on hand in the congregation. **July:** *Was Life Created?*

■ The meeting schedule for the week preceding your district convention may be adjusted to review counsel and reminders about attending the convention. A month or two following your convention, a local needs part may be used to review convention points that the publishers have found to be helpful in the ministry.

■ Beginning in May, all congregations should use the first Saturday of each month to concentrate on starting Bible studies. The *Watchtower* series "Learn From God's Word" has been designed to help publishers do this. The back page of each issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* will contain sample presentations for the following month, including a suggestion for starting a Bible study on the first Saturday.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in May

"Have you ever wondered why God allows evil and suffering? [Allow for response.] I would like to show you something interesting on this subject." Read together the material under the first subheading on page 16 of the May 1 issue of *The Watchtower* and one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to consider the answer to the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM May 1

Read Psalm 37:10, 11. Then say: "Do you think we will see this promise come true soon? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses six different Bible prophecies that we are seeing fulfilled right now, prophecies that indicate that the reality of this promise cannot be a long way off."

Awake!® May

"Some say that humans are simply highly evolved animals. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 139:14.] Of course, the psalmist had limited knowledge of the wonders of the human body. This magazine discusses what we know now, including what sets us apart from animals."

Field Service Highlights

In November 2010, the United States reported a new all-time peak of 136,885 regular pioneers. This is an increase of 188 over the previous peak in October 2010. Also, the Turks and Caicos Islands reached a new all-time peak of 35 regular pioneers in November. Bermuda had an increase of 6.1 percent in regular pioneers over the same month last year. What a joy to see Jehovah's people "intensely occupied with the word"!—Acts 18:5.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MAY 2011

WEEK STARTING MAY 9

Song 58 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 3 ¶12-18 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 1-10 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 7:1-17 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: *If Someone Says:* **"I Have Accepted Jesus as My Personal Savior"**—*rs* p. 220 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: **Why Jesus Corrected a Man for Calling Him "Good Teacher"**—Mark 10:17, 18 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 4
5 min: **Announcements.**
10 min: We Must Obey God as Ruler Rather Than Men. (Acts 5:29) Discussion based on the *2011 Yearbook,* page 219, paragraph 4, to page 221, paragraph 2. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: Can You Auxiliary Pioneer During the Summer? Discussion. Briefly review pages 112-113 in the *Organized* book, outlining the requirements. Invite those who have used vacation from work or school to auxiliary pioneer to comment on the blessings they enjoyed.
10 min: "Let Your Light Shine." Questions and answers. Invite audience to relate personal experiences where exemplary conduct opened the way to give a witness.
Song 93 and Prayer

"Let Your Light Shine"

[1] From dawn till dusk, the beauty of visible light brings praise to Jehovah God. Yet, it was another kind of light that Jesus invited his disciples to possess—"the light of life." (John 8:12) Possessing this spiritual enlightenment is a special privilege that includes serious responsibilities. Jesus instructed: "Let your light shine before men," thereby benefiting others. (Matt. 5:16) Amid today's deep spiritual darkness, this light must be shared, and the need has never been greater! How can we, like Christ, let our light shine?

1. What do we have the privilege to share?

[2] **By Preaching:** Jesus used his time, energy, and resources to make the light of truth known to people in their homes, in public squares, on the mountaintops—wherever they could be found. He recognized the lasting value of providing true spiritual enlightenment. (John 12:46) To reach even more people, Jesus prepared his disciples to be "the light of the world." (Matt. 5:14) They let their light shine by doing good to their neighbors and by sharing spiritual truths.

[3] God's people take seriously the responsibility to "go on walking as children of light," and they preach wherever people can be found. (Eph. 5:8) Simply reading the Bible or other Christian publications in public view during a work or school break can open the way for a Scriptural discussion. In this way, one young sister started a Bible study and placed books with 12 of her classmates!

[4] **By Fine Works:** Letting our light shine also involves our daily conduct. (Eph. 5:9) At work, at school, and in other public areas, Christian conduct stands out and creates opportunities to share Bible truths. (1 Pet. 2:12) For example, the good behavior of one five-year-old boy moved his teacher to call his parents. She said, "Never have I seen a child with such a strong sense of morality!" Yes, our ministry and fine conduct attract people to "the light of life" and bring praise to our God.

2. How did Jesus show the importance of sharing spiritual light?
3. How can we demonstrate genuine appreciation for the light of truth?
4. Why does 'letting our light shine' include exemplary conduct?

WEEK STARTING MAY 16

Song 96 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 4 ¶1-4, box on p. 30 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 11-18 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 17:1-15 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: How We Show That We Worship Jehovah Alone—Rom. 6:16, 17 (5 min.)
No. 3: Are the Natural Jews Today God's Chosen People?—*rs* p. 220 ¶2–p. 221 ¶4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 127
5 min: Announcements.
10 min: Use Questions to Teach Effectively—Part 1. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 236 to page 237, paragraph 2. Briefly demonstrate one or two points from the material.
10 min: Methods of Preaching the Good News—Making Return Visits. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 97, paragraphs 1-3. Include a brief demonstration of an elder making a return visit on someone who accepted the offer for the current month.
10 min: "Could You Share in the Ministry on Sundays?" Questions and answers.
Song 115 and Prayer

Could You Share in the Ministry on Sundays?

[1] It was the Sabbath, a day when most Jews in Philippi rested. Paul and his companions were visiting the city during one of their missionary tours. No one would have criticized them for taking a well-deserved rest from their ministry on that day too. They, however, knew that Jews gathered outside the city to pray, so they took advantage of the opportunity to preach to them. How happy Paul and his companions must have been when Lydia listened and her entire household got baptized! (Acts 16:13-15) Since many today rest on Sunday, why not use part of this day to preach to them?

1. What can we learn from the actions of Paul and his companions in Philippi?

[2] **The Battle for Sunday Preaching:** During 1927, Jehovah's people were encouraged to spend a portion of every Sunday in the ministry. This resulted in immediate opposition. Many were arrested in the United States for violating Sunday Sabbath laws, disturbing the peace, and selling without a license. But Jehovah's people did not give up. In the 1930's, they organized "divisional campaigns," whereby publishers from surrounding congregations would converge to cover a territory. On occasions when publishers were arrested, there were so many of them that the authorities were overwhelmed. Do you truly appreciate the sacrifices those brothers made so that we can preach on Sunday without harassment?

[3] **An Excellent Day to Preach:** Many people are home from work on Sunday. They are usually more relaxed. Some churchgoers may be more inclined to talk about God on this day. If we have our meeting on Sunday, we are already dressed as we would be for the ministry, so why not plan field service activity before or after the meeting? If needed, prepare a light meal to take with you.

[4] If we use a portion of Sunday for the ministry, we will still have time to get the rest that *we* need. And our rest will be accompanied with the satisfaction that results from engaging in sacred service. (Prov. 19: 23) We may even experience the joy of finding someone like Lydia!

2. What challenges have Jehovah's people overcome in order to preach on Sunday without harassment?
3. What makes Sunday a good day to share in the ministry?
4. What joy can we experience if we spend a portion of Sunday in the ministry?

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WEEK STARTING MAY 23

Song 39 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 4, box on p. 33 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 19-25 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 23:1–24:10 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Will All the Jews Be Converted to Faith in Christ?—*rs* p. 222 ¶1-2 (5 min.)
No. 3: How and When Will Romans 8:21 Be Fulfilled? (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 78
10 min: Announcements. "How to Use the *Please Follow Up* (S-43) Form." Discussion.
10 min: Three Aspects of Effective Introductions. Talk based on the *Reasoning* book, page 9, paragraph 1. After considering the material, have two demonstrations showing how the offer for June may be introduced.
15 min: Have You Tried It? Discussion. By means of a talk, briefly review information from these recent articles in *Our Kingdom Ministry:* "Use It on Every Occasion" and "A New Series for Starting Bible Studies" (*km* 12/10) as well as "Help for Families" (*km* 1/11). Invite audience to comment on how they have tried to apply the suggestions in these articles and how they have benefited.
Song 56 and Prayer

WEEK STARTING MAY 30

Song 33 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 4 ¶5-12 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 26-33 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 31:9-24 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Bible Examples of Genuine Humility (5 min.)
No. 3: Must Jews Put Faith in Jesus to Be Saved?—*rs* p. 222 ¶3–p. 223 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 38
10 min: Announcements. Using the sample presentation on page 4, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in June. Encourage all to have a share.
15 min: How to Do Research. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 33-38. Include a brief soliloquy of a publisher using research tools to find the answer to a question raised by someone in the ministry.
10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in June. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review some of the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
Song 113 and Prayer

How to Use the *Please Follow Up* (S-43) Form

This form should be filled out when you find an interested person who does not live in your territory or who speaks a foreign language. Though in the past we used it when meeting people who speak a foreign language whether they demonstrated interest or not, we now use it only when the person demonstrates interest. The only exception is if the person is deaf. If we meet someone who is deaf, regardless of whether he demonstrates interest, we should fill out an S-43 form.

What should we do with the form after it is filled out? We should give it to the congregation secretary. If he knows which congregation to send it to, he may simply forward it to the elders of that congregation so that they can arrange to care for the interest. If he cannot determine the congregation, he will forward the form to the branch office.

If the interested person speaks a foreign language and lives in your territory, you may continue calling on him to cultivate the interest until he is contacted by a publisher from the appropriate foreign-language congregation.—See the November 2009 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 6

Song 68 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 4 ¶13-20, box on p. 34 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 34-37 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 35:1-18 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Are the Events Taking Place in Israel Today in Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy?—*rs* p. 223 ¶2–p. 224 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Can We Learn From Luke 12:13-15, 21? (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 126
5 min: Announcements.
10 min: Use Questions to Teach Effectively—Part 2. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 237, paragraph 3, to page 238, paragraph 5. Briefly demonstrate one or two points from the material.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: What Did We Accomplish? Discussion by the service overseer. Commend the congregation for its activity during the Memorial season, and outline what was accomplished. Invite audience to relate experiences enjoyed while auxiliary pioneering during March, April, and May.
Song 83 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. When making return visits on those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associating with the congregation, concentrate on starting studies using the *Bible Teach* book. **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book, congregations that have a stock of *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* and *Worship the Only True God* may offer either of these books. Otherwise, offer any older field publications on hand in the congregation. **July:** *Was Life Created?* **August:** Any 32-page brochures that are in stock except *How Can Blood Save Your Life?, Jehovah's Witnesses and Education, Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?,* and *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*.

■ Since July has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in June

"All of us have family or friends who have died. Do you have the hope of seeing them again? [Allow for response.] Notice this comforting thought." Read and discuss the material under the first subheading on page 16 of the June 1 issue of *The Watchtower* and one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to consider the answer to the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 1

"Many of us struggle to make ends meet, and some people don't even have life's necessities. Do you think we will ever see the time when no one is poor? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 9:18.] This magazine points out the cause of poverty and what the Bible says about the real solution to this problem."

Awake!® June

"Terrorism has become a global problem. What do you think is the cause? [Allow for response.] These words from the Bible give us hope. [Read Psalm 72:7, 14.] This magazine explains some of the reasons for terrorism and shows what the Bible says about how and when terrorism will end."

Field Service Highlights

In the month of December 2010, the Turks and Caicos Islands reported new all-time peaks of 278 publishers and 37 regular pioneers. Also, when compared with the same month last year, the United States saw increases of 2.7 percent in total publishers, 6.8 percent in regular pioneers, and 4.5 percent in auxiliary pioneers. Bermuda also had increases of 2.5 percent in total publishers and 40 percent in auxiliary pioneers. Truly, a great shout of praise ascends to our heavenly Father.—Ps. 95:1.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JUNE 2011

WEEK STARTING JUNE 13

Song 45 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 5 ¶1-8, box on p. 39 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 38-44 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 41:1–42:5 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Bible Examples of Close Friendships and Qualities That We Can Imitate (5 min.)
No. 3: Among Whom Do the Prophecies About Restoration of Israel Have Fulfillment Today?—*rs* p. 224 ¶3–p. 225 ¶3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 87
***5* min: Announcements.**
10 min: Methods of Preaching the Good News—Conducting Home Bible Studies. Discussion of *Organized* book, page 98, paragraph 1, to page 99, paragraph 1. Invite audience to comment on the joy they have experienced teaching someone the truth and seeing him make spiritual progress. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.
10 min: What Is the Christian Standard for Marriage, Divorce, and Separation? Talk by an elder based on the *Organized* book, pages 194-195, questions 1-3.
10 min: "Our Ministry—Characterized by Patience." Questions and answers.
Song 103 and Prayer

Our Ministry—Characterized by Patience

[1] Patience is a hallmark of God's dealings with mankind. (Ex. 34:6; Ps. 106:41-45; 2 Pet. 3:9) One of the foremost examples of his loving patience can be seen in connection with the worldwide Kingdom-preaching work. Jehovah has worked with mankind for almost 2,000 years, and yet he continues to draw honesthearted ones to himself. (John 6:44) How can our ministry mirror Jehovah's patience?

[2] **House-to-House Ministry:** We imitate Jehovah's patience by preaching "without letup" in territory where individuals have not yet demonstrated interest. (Acts 5:42) We patiently endure indifference, ridicule, and opposition to our ministry. (Mark 13:12, 13) We also demonstrate patience by persisting in our efforts to water seeds of truth even when it is difficult to find interested ones at home.

[3] **Bible Studies:** Growing a plant requires patience. We can nurture it, but we cannot rush its growth. (Jas. 5:7) Similarly, spiritual growth occurs gradually and in stages. (Mark 4:28) Those we study with may find it hard to abandon false religious beliefs or unscriptural customs. We should not try to speed up growth by pressuring our students to make changes. Patience is required to allow a reasonable amount of time for God's spirit to work on the heart of the student.—1 Cor. 3: 6, 7.

[4] **Unbelieving Relatives:** Although we strongly desire that our unbelieving relatives learn the truth, we show patience by waiting for the right time to share our faith with them, being careful not to overwhelm them with too much information. (Eccl. 3:1, 7) In the meantime, we let our example speak for us, and we remain ready to express our faith with a mild temper and deep respect. (1 Pet. 3:1, 15) Indeed, a ministry characterized by patience will be more effective and will please our heavenly Father.

1. How has Jehovah demonstrated patience with mankind?
2. How may we show patience when working our territory?
3. Why is patience needed when making return visits and conducting Bible studies?
4. How can patience help us to witness effectively to unbelieving relatives?

WEEK STARTING JUNE 20

Song 63 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 5 ¶9-16, boxes on pp. 41-42 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 45-51 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 48:1–49:9 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Is God's Kingdom a Real Government?—*rs* p. 226 ¶1-2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Since Life Is a Gift, Why Must We Work Out Our Own Salvation?—Rom. 6:23; Phil. 2:12 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 88
***5* min: Announcements.**
10 min: The Offer for July. Discussion. Briefly outline features of the new brochure *Was Life Created?,* then have one or two presentations demonstrated, including the sample presentation on page 4.
10 min: Out of the Mouth of Babes. (Matt. 21:15, 16) Discussion based on the *2011 Yearbook,* page 53, paragraph 3, and page 58, paragraphs 1-2. After discussing each experience, invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: "Street Witnessing That Is Effective." Questions and answers by the service overseer. Adapt the material to local circumstances. Briefly demonstrate one or two points from the article.
Song 107 and Prayer

Street Witnessing That Is Effective

[1] During his earthly ministry, Jesus did not hesitate to speak with people he met on the road and in other public places. (Luke 9:57-61; John 4:7) He wanted to share his important message with as many people as possible. Today, street witnessing is an excellent way to help people obtain godly wisdom. (Prov. 1:20) Our success will be enhanced if we take the initiative and use discernment.

1. What is one way we can imitate Jesus?

[2] **Take the Initiative:** It is generally better to approach individuals rather than to stand or sit in one place waiting for passersby to approach you. Smile, make eye contact, and have a calm, friendly manner. If you are working with other publishers, it is usually best to approach people separately. Initiative is also needed to follow up on the interest that you find. If appropriate, at the end of the conversation, kindly ask how you may contact the person again. Some publishers do street work regularly at the same location, enabling them to speak to the same people repeatedly and further their interest.

[3] **Use Discernment:** Use good judgment in deciding where to stand on the street and whom to approach. It is not necessary to witness to every passerby. Be observant. If the person is in a hurry, for example, it may be best to let him pass. When witnessing in front of a business place, be discreet so as to avoid causing undue concern to the manager. It is often better to witness to people as they leave the business rather than as they enter. Approach people in a way that will not frighten or startle them. Also, be discerning when offering literature. If individuals display little interest, you may offer a tract instead of the magazines.

[4] Street witnessing enables us to scatter many seeds of truth in a short period of time. (Eccl. 11:6) Some people we meet may even be those we are unable to find at home when working from house to house. Why not make arrangements to engage in street witnessing, an enjoyable and effective form of field service?

2. How is initiative involved when doing street work?
3. How may we use discernment when doing street witnessing?
4. Why is street witnessing a beneficial and enjoyable form of witnessing?

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WEEK STARTING JUNE 27

Song 123 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 5 ¶17-22 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 52-59 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 106
10 min: Announcements. "How Much Time Should I Count?" Talk by an elder. Following the talk, use the sample presentation on page 4 to demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in July. Encourage all to have a share.
10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in July. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review some of the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
15 min: Demonstrate Tactfulness When Preaching. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 197-199. Have a demonstration showing a publisher responding to a common objection without tact. Then have another demonstration of the publisher replying to the same objection in a tactful manner.
Song 92 and Prayer

"How Much Time Should I Count?"

Have you ever asked that question? General guidelines are found on pages 86-87 of the *Organized* book. Additional direction is occasionally provided, such as in the Question Box of the September 2008 *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Since circumstances vary, we have not been given a long list of rules. Therefore, it would not be appropriate for elders or others to set forth additional guidelines.

If a question arises and there is no published direction on it, each publisher can consider: Was the time spent in the ministry? Or was it spent doing something else that is not actually part of that work? What we write on our personal field service report each month should give us joy and not pangs of conscience. (Acts 23:1) Of course, our primary concern is, not how to count time, but how to make our time count by being industrious in the ministry.—Heb. 6:11.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning June 27, 2011. The school overseer will conduct a 20-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of May 2 through June 27, 2011.

1. What lesson can we learn from Jehovah's requiring Job to pray for those who sinned against him? (Job 42:8) [*w98* 8/15 p. 30 par. 5]
2. What are "the sacrifices of righteousness" that Christians offer today? (Ps. 4:5) [*w06* 5/15 p. 18 par. 9]
3. How did David's kidneys correct him? (Ps. 16:7) [*w04* 12/1 p. 14 par. 9]
4. How is it that "the heavens are declaring the glory of God"? (Ps. 19:1) [*w04* 10/1 p. 10 par. 8]
5. Psalm 27:14 suggests what connection between hope and courage? [*w06* 10/1 pp. 26-27 pars. 3, 6]
6. How should Psalm 37:21 affect our dealings with our brothers? [*w88* 8/15 p. 17 par. 8]
7. What lesson in appreciation can be learned from the case of a certain Levite in exile? (Ps. 42:1-3) [*w06* 6/1 p. 9 par. 3]
8. What can help us to cultivate love of righteousness and hatred for wickedness? (Ps. 45:7) [*cf* pp. 58-59 pars. 8-10]
9. With whose "willing spirit" did David ask to be supported? (Ps. 51:12) [*w06* 6/1 p. 9 par. 10]
10. How can we be like an olive tree in God's house? (Ps. 52:8) [*w00* 5/15 p. 29 par. 6]

WEEK STARTING JULY 4

Song 85 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 6 ¶1-8, box on p. 44 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 60-68 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 62:1–63:5 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: How Are We Involved in the Fulfillment of Haggai 2:7? (5 min.)
No. 3: Who Are the Rulers in the Kingdom?—*rs* p. 226 ¶3-5 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 59
5 min: Announcements.
10 min: If Someone Says—'I Have My Own Religion.' Discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, page 18, paragraph 2, to page 19, paragraph 4. Invite audience to relate other responses that they have used with success. Have one or two suggestions demonstrated.
10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Luke 9:57-62 and Luke 14:25-33 read. Consider how these verses can help us in our ministry.
10 min: Local needs.
Song 124 and Prayer

Announcements

■ **June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book, congregations that have a stock of *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* and *Worship the Only True God* may offer either of these books. Otherwise, offer any older field publications on hand in the congregation. **July:** *Was Life Created?* **August**: Any 32-page brochures that are in stock except *How Can Blood Save Your Life?*, *Jehovah's Witnesses and Education*, *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?*, and *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book and do not accept the offer of a Bible study, offer an older magazine or any brochure that addresses the person's interest.

■ Since July has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in July

"Many have repeated these words from the Lord's Prayer: 'Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth.' What do you think that Kingdom is? [Allow for response.] This Bible verse gives us a clue." Read Daniel 2:44. Then hand the householder a copy of the July 1 issue of *The Watchtower* and read and discuss together the material under the first subheading on page 16. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return and consider the answer to the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 1

"Because life is short and filled with problems, many wonder about the meaning of life. Have you ever thought about that? [Allow for response.] The Bible promises that life will not always be like this. [Read Revelation 21:4.] This magazine discusses God's purpose for the earth and lists some things we can do to find real meaning in life even now."

Awake!® July

Mention a tragedy that is in the news. Then say: "Why do you think God allows such things to occur? [Allow for response.] According to the Bible, God feels compassion for those who suffer. [Read Exodus 3:7.] The Bible also tells us why God allows suffering and that he will soon end it forever. This magazine explains."

Was Life Created?

"In this modern world, many individuals assume that evolution is established fact. What are your thoughts? [Allow for response.] Many others, after examining the facts, have found that faith in creation is based on solid evidence. [Read Hebrews 11:1, refer to page 2, and offer brochure.] I would like to return and discuss the question posed on page 29: 'Does it matter what you believe?'"

Field Service Highlights

The Turks and Caicos Islands reached new peaks in Bible studies, return visits, regular pioneers, and literature placements in January 2011. Also, when compared with the first five months of the previous service year, Bermuda saw a 4.9 percent increase in publishers and a 3.3 percent increase in Bible studies while the United States had a 7 percent increase in regular pioneers and an 8.8 percent increase in auxiliary pioneers. Let us continue to 'fully accomplish our ministry'!—2 Tim. 4:5.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JULY 2011

WEEK STARTING JULY 11

Song 34 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 6 ¶9-16 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Psalms 69-73 (10 min.)

No. 1: Psalm 72:1-20 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Effect Will God's Kingdom Have on Human Governments?—*rs* p. 227 ¶1-2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Lessons That Youths Can Learn From Kings Hezekiah and Josiah (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 79

***5* min: Announcements.**

10 min: Use Questions to Teach Effectively—Part 3. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 239. Briefly demonstrate one or two points from the material.

10 min: "Be 'Tenderly Compassionate.'" Questions and answers.

10 min: Make Sure of the More Important Things. (Phil. 1:10) Interview one or two family heads who have a regular, zealous share in the ministry despite having a full-time job or heavy family responsibilities. How do they make room in their busy schedule for the ministry? How has having a regular share in the ministry benefited them and their family?

Song 73 and Prayer

Be "Tenderly Compassionate"

[1] Never before in history have so many people been in such dire need of compassionate assistance. Deteriorating world conditions have resulted in widespread feelings of unhappiness, depression, and hopelessness. Millions need help, and we as Christians are in a position to demonstrate genuine concern for our neighbors. (Matt. 22:39; Gal. 6:10) How can such concern be shown?

1. What are people in dire need of today?

[2] **A Work of Compassion:** There is no real, lasting comfort that does not originate with God. (2 Cor. 1:3, 4) Jehovah urges us to imitate him by becoming "tenderly compassionate," and he has given us the commission to visit our neighbors with the good news of the Kingdom. (1 Pet. 3:8) Active participation in this work is the best way for us to comfort "the brokenhearted," because God's Kingdom is the only real hope for suffering mankind. (Isa. 61:1) Out of compassion for his people, Jehovah will soon act to clear away wickedness and establish a righteous new world.—2 Pet. 3:13.

[3] **View People as Jesus Did:** Even when preaching to large crowds, Jesus saw more than a mass of people. He perceived individuals having spiritual needs. They were like sheep with no shepherd to guide them. Jesus' heart was touched by what he saw, and he was moved to teach them patiently. (Mark 6:34) Our viewing people the same way Jesus did will prompt us to show genuine compassion for them as individuals. This will be apparent in our tone of voice and facial expressions. Preaching will be our priority, and we will tailor our words to address each one's personal concerns.—1 Cor. 9:19-23.

[4] A great crowd of people from all nations are responding favorably to the Kingdom message and the refreshing interest shown in them. As we continue to clothe ourselves with compassion, we will honor and please our compassionate God, Jehovah. —Col. 3:12.

2. What is the best way for us to show compassion?
3. How may we view people as Jesus did?
4. Why should we clothe ourselves with compassion?

WEEK STARTING JULY 18

Song 98 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

bt chap. 6 ¶17-24, box on p. 48 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Psalms 74-78 (10 min.)

No. 1: Psalm 77:1-20 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Ways in Which We Can Oppose the Devil—Jas. 4:7 (5 min.)

No. 3: God's Kingdom Will Sanctify Jehovah's Name—*rs* p. 227 ¶3-5 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 130

5 min: Announcements.

15 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Read and discuss John 4:3-24. Consider how we can imitate Jesus in our ministry. Then have a demonstration of a publisher witnessing informally in a realistic setting.

15 min: "Are Your Children Ready?" Questions and answers. Invite parents and youths to name some of the specific challenges that Christians face at school. After considering paragraph 3, demonstrate a practice session in which a father pretends to be a teacher and the child explains why he cannot participate in an objectionable class assignment or activity.

Song 91 and Prayer

Are Your Children Ready?

1 The time is approaching for another school year to begin. Your children will no doubt experience new challenges and pressures. They will also have fresh opportunities to "bear witness to the truth." (John 18:37) Are they ready?

1. Why is there a need for schoolchildren to be prepared?

2 Do your children clearly understand what constitutes participation in nationalistic ceremonies and pagan holidays and why sharing in them is wrong? Are they prepared for the pressure they will receive to pursue higher education, date, and use alcohol or drugs? Would they simply say that an objectionable activity is against their religion, or do they know how to explain their beliefs? —1 Pet. 3:15.

3 **Use the Family Worship Evening:** Of course, you will likely have discussions throughout the school year as the need arises. Your making a special effort to consider school-related matters before classes resume will give your children confidence. Why not use one or more Family Worship evenings for this? You might ask your children what causes them the most anxiety as they contemplate going back to school. Matters that you have considered in previous years can be reviewed now that the children are older and have increased understanding. (Ps. 119:95) You could include practice sessions in which you pretend to be a teacher, counselor, or fellow student. Teach your children how to answer from the Bible and to use such tools as the *Reasoning* book and the *Young People Ask* books. One parent used practice sessions to prepare her children to approach their new teachers at the start of each school year and inform them that they are Jehovah's Witnesses.—See *The Watchtower,* December 15, 2010, pages 3-5.

4 The challenges Christian youths must face during these last days are increasingly "hard to deal with." (2 Tim. 3:1) Wise parents will try to anticipate them. (Prov. 22:3) Before the new school year begins, do all you can to help your children be ready.

2. In order to be prepared, what should your children know?
3. How may parents use their Family Worship evening to prepare their children?
4. What will wise parents do?

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WEEK STARTING JULY 25

Song 97 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 7 ¶1-8, box on p. 53 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 79-86 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 84:1–85:7 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: God's Kingdom Will Unify All Creation in Pure Worship—*rs* p. 228 ¶1-2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why None of the Demons Are Atheists—Jas. 2:19 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 70
5 min: Announcements. Mention the literature offer for August, and have one presentation demonstrated.
10 min: Preaching Despite Health Limitations. Discussion based on the *2011 Yearbook,* page 64, paragraphs 1-2, and page 69, paragraph 1. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
20 min: "Our Magazines—Designed to Have Wide Appeal." Questions and answers. After considering paragraph 2, take a minute to discuss the contents of the August *Awake!* Then invite the audience to suggest several questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation, and demonstrate how the *Awake!* might be offered. After considering paragraph 3, do the same with the August 1 *Watchtower.*
Song 134 and Prayer

Our Magazines—Designed to Have Wide Appeal

[1] Just as the apostle Paul adapted the way he presented the good news in order to gain "people of all sorts," the faithful and discreet slave class uses our journals to reach people of different backgrounds and beliefs. (1 Cor. 9:22, 23) So that we can make good use of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* we do well to keep in mind the intended readership of these magazines.

1. How does the faithful and discreet slave class imitate the apostle Paul?

[2] ***Awake!:*** This journal is aimed at reaching the same type of people as the apostle Paul spoke to when addressing the "men of Athens." (Acts 17:22) Those men had a non-Christian background, and they had little understanding of the Scriptures. Likewise, the readership for which *Awake!* is designed has little or no knowledge of the Bible. They may know nothing about Christian teachings, they may be somewhat distrustful of religion, or they may be unaware that the Bible has practical value. A primary objective of *Awake!* is to convince its readers that the true God exists. The aim of this journal is also to build faith in the Bible and help the reader to understand that Jehovah's Witnesses are different from other religious groups.

[3] ***The Watchtower:*** The intended readership of the public edition of this journal has a measure of respect for God and for the Scriptures. They have some knowledge of the Bible but do not understand its teachings accurately. They are similar to the audience Paul referred to as those who "fear God." (Acts 13:14-16) The study edition of *The Watchtower* is written primarily for Jehovah's Witnesses. Paul assumed that those who read his letters were familiar with the Scriptures and had an accurate knowledge of truth. (1 Cor. 1:1, 2) Likewise, articles in the study edition are written for those who attend our meetings and are familiar with Witness terms and concepts.

[4] Although we normally offer the magazines as a set, we usually feature only one of them in our presentation. Therefore, make it your goal to be familiar with each issue. Then you will be in the best position to feature what will appeal to those you meet.

2. *Awake!* is designed to appeal to whom?
3. What is the intended readership of each edition of *The Watchtower?*
4. Why should we become familiar with each issue of the magazines we use in the field?

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 1

Song 31 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 7 ¶9-13, box on p. 56 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Psalms 87-91 (10 min.)

No. 1: Psalm 89:26-52 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Reasons Why Jehovah's Faithful Servants Are Happy (5 min.)

No. 3: God's Kingdom Will Eliminate War and Corruption—*rs* p. 228 ¶3–p. 229 ¶2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 131

10 min: Announcements. Using the sample presentation on this page, demonstrate how a Bible study may be started on the first Saturday in August. Encourage all to have a share.

15 min: Use Illustrations That Teach. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 240-243. Invite audience to relate brief illustrations they have used successfully to reason with a householder or a Bible student.

10 min: Local needs.

Song 129 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **July:** *Was Life Created?* **August:** Any 32-page brochures that are in stock except *How Can Blood Save Your Life?, Jehovah's Witnesses and Education, Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?,* and *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking.* **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book and do not accept the offer of a Bible study, offer an older magazine or any brochure that addresses the person's interest. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in August

"People belong to various religions and worship God in many different ways. How do you think God feels about that? [Allow for response.] Notice what Jesus taught on this subject." Hand the householder a copy of the August 1 *Watchtower* and consider together the material under the first subheading on page 16 and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM August 1

"Should children be taught about God when they are young, or is it better to wait until they are older and allow them to choose their own religious beliefs? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible instructs fathers to do. [Read Ephesians 6:4.] This magazine gives some tips on how parents can teach their children about God."

Awake!® August

"I'd like to get your opinion on this verse. [Read 1 Samuel 16:23.] According to this, music has power. Do you think it is possible for some songs to have an unwholesome influence? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses how we can make wise choices in our music and how we can help our children to do so too."

Field Service Highlights

In the month of February 2011, the Turks and Caicos Islands reported two new all-time peaks: 295 publishers and 736 Bible studies. In the United States, when compared with the same six-month period last year, there were increases of 7 percent in regular pioneers and 8 percent in auxiliary pioneers. Bermuda too had an increase of 25 percent in auxiliary pioneers during the same time period. Truly, Jehovah's servants are imitating his zeal for fine work!—John 5:17.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

AUGUST 2011

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 8

Song 44 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 7 ¶14-18, boxes on pp. 57-58 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 92-101 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 94:1-23 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: God's Kingdom Will Provide Food for All and Do Away With Sickness—*rs* p. 229 ¶3-5 (5 min.)
No. 3: Guard Against the Deceptive Power of Riches—Matt. 13:22 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 94
***5* min: Announcements.**
10 min: Demonstrate Interest in the Householder. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 186-187. Briefly demonstrate one or two points from the material.
10 min: Experiences Starting Bible Studies. Discussion by the service overseer. Commend the congregation for their support of the arrangement to start Bible studies on the first Saturday of the month. Invite audience to relate experiences they have enjoyed. One or two outstanding experiences may be reenacted.
10 min: "Let God's Name Be Sanctified." Questions and answers. Announce the dates of the circuit assembly if they are known.
Song 112 and Prayer

'Let God's Name Be Sanctified'

1 How privileged we are to bear the name of the Universal Sovereign, Jehovah! It was God himself who gave us his name to bear, and especially since the year 1931, as Jehovah's Witnesses, we have been identified with Jehovah's distinctive name. (Isa. 43:10) God's only-begotten Son, Jesus, held God's name in the highest esteem, giving it first place in his model prayer. (Matt. 6:9) Jesus' words provide the basis for the theme of our circuit assembly program for the 2012 service year. It is "Let God's Name Be Sanctified."

2 **What We Will Hear:** On Saturday the talk "Make God's Name Known as Full-Time Servants" will discuss why the full-time service is a rewarding way of life. We will also hear the symposium "Beware of Bringing Reproach on Jehovah's Name," which will help us to avoid becoming entrapped by four potential snares. The questions, What will help us to preach with zeal when people seem to show little interest? and, What will help us to carry out a meaningful ministry? will be answered in the talk "Why God's Name Must Be Sanctified." On Sunday we will enjoy a four-part symposium on how we can sanctify God's name by our thoughts, speech, decisions, and conduct. New ones will especially appreciate the public address, "Jehovah Will Sanctify His Great Name at Armageddon."

3 Very soon Jehovah will act to sanctify his name. (Ezek. 36:23) In the meantime, we have the awesome privilege of upholding all that Jehovah's holy name represents. We are confident that this circuit assembly program will help each of us to fulfill our serious responsibility as bearers of God's name.

1. What is the theme of the circuit assembly program for the 2012 service year, and what is its basis?
2. What information do we have to look forward to?
3. What privilege do we have, and how will the program help us?

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 15

Song 39 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

bt chap. 8 ¶1-7, boxes on pp. 61-62 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Psalms 102-105 (10 min.)

No. 1: Psalm 105:1-24 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Why We Should Not Look Back Longingly at What We Have Forsaken to Serve Jehovah—Luke 9:62 (5 min.)

No. 3: God's Kingdom Will Provide Homes, Employment, and Security for All—*rs* p. 229 ¶6–p. 230 ¶2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 85

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: Help Interested Ones to Progress. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 187, paragraph 6, to page 188, paragraph 3.

20 min: ***"Jehovah's Witnesses—Organized to Share the Good News."*** Questions and answers. Use the information in the first and last paragraphs for a brief introduction and conclusion.

Song 47 and Prayer

Jehovah's Witnesses —Organized to Share the Good News

For over 100 years, Jehovah's Witnesses have been organized to share the good news. In what has become the greatest preaching campaign the world has ever known, we speak this message in hundreds of languages and in more than 230 lands. (Matt. 24:14) Why is this work necessary? How is it being accomplished on a global scale? The video *Jehovah's Witnesses—Organized to Share the Good News* answers those questions by providing a close-up look at the many facets of our international activities. After watching the video, give consideration to the following questions.

How has this video enhanced your appreciation for **(1)** the effort Jehovah's organization is making to share the good news? (2 Tim. 4:2) **(2)** the Bethel families around the world? **(3)** the educational training provided for missionaries and overseers? (2 Tim. 2:2) **(4)** the importance of starting each day considering a Bible text and preparing each week for congregation meetings? (Acts 17:11) **(5)** the benefits of attending our Christian gatherings? (Heb. 10:24, 25) **(6)** the blessings you will receive when Paradise is restored on earth? (Isa. 11:9) **(7)** the privilege you have to share in the ongoing harvest work?—John 4:35.

This video has proved to be an excellent tool for acquainting interested people with the worldwide work being done by Jehovah's Witnesses. **(8)** When would it be good to show the video to our Bible students, relatives, and others? **(9)** What positive reaction have you seen when showing it?

As we reflect on what Jehovah is accomplishing, we are moved to echo these sentiments of the psalmist: "Many things you yourself have done, O Jehovah my God, even your wonderful works and your thoughts toward us; there is none to be compared to you." (Ps. 40:5) May we make good use of this video to help others develop appreciation for Jehovah and his organization!

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WEEK STARTING AUGUST 22

Song 54 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 8 ¶8-16 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 106-109 (10 min.)

No. 1: Psalm 109:1-20 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: God's Kingdom Will Cause Righteousness and Justice to Prevail—*rs* p. 230 ¶3-5 (5 min.)

No. 3: Follow the Examples of Jehovah and Jesus in Displaying Good Manners (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 132

10 min: Announcements. "Let God's Will Take Place." Questions and answers. Announce the date of the special assembly day if it is known.

25 min: "Can You 'Step Over Into Macedonia'?" Questions and answers. If available, interview a publisher who moved to a foreign land to further the good news.

Song 95 and Prayer

'Let God's Will Take Place'

[1] We were created because of Jehovah's will. (Rev. 4:11) Thus, it would be impossible to fulfill the purpose of our existence without learning and doing the will of God. This is not as easy as it may seem, forasmuch as we have to fight an inward tendency to do "the things willed by the flesh and the thoughts" or to do "the will of the nations." (Eph. 2:3; 1 Pet. 4:3; 2 Pet. 2:10) Without God's help, we would even risk being "caught alive by [the Devil] for the will of that one." (2 Tim. 2:26) Our special assembly day program for the 2012 service year will help each of us to work in harmony with the third primary entreaty in the model prayer, namely, "let your will take place."—Matt. 6:9, 10.

[2] **Questions That Will Be Answered:** As you listen to the program, look for the answers to these questions: What is as important as *hearing* God's Word? How can we go on perceiving what God's will is for us? Why do we need to be willing to reach out to all sorts of people? How can we find a rich, satisfying life? Young ones, what do you need to prove to Jehovah? What rewards come from doing God's will? Why is it urgent that we build up and encourage others?

[3] Be sure to be in attendance and to pay careful attention to the program. A Bethel representative or a traveling overseer will likely be present as a visiting speaker. Before and after the program, feel free to speak with him and his wife, if he is married. When you return home, do not become "a forgetful hearer," but review the program as a family and discuss how you can work in harmony with God's will more fully.—Jas. 1:25.

[4] Very soon those who are pursuing their own desires and who refuse to submit to the will of Jehovah will be destroyed. (1 John 2:17) We are therefore thankful that Jehovah has prepared this timely information to help us make the doing of God's will our priority!

1. What is the theme of the special assembly day program for the 2012 service year, and why is it appropriate that we consider this subject?
2. What questions will be answered during the program?
3. How can we benefit fully from this spiritual provision?
4. Why is it important that we make the doing of God's will our priority?

Can You "Step Over Into Macedonia"?

[1] About the year 49 C.E., the apostle Paul left Syrian Antioch for his second missionary trip. His intention was to visit Ephesus and other cities in Asia Minor. However, he received a spirit-directed invitation to "step over into Macedonia" instead. He and his companions gladly accepted, and they were privileged to establish the first congregation in that region. (Acts 16:9, 10; 17:1, 2, 4) Today, some parts of the worldwide field have a real need for more harvest workers. (Matt. 9:37, 38) Are you in a position to help?

[2] Perhaps you have Paul's missionary spirit but have not seriously considered moving to a foreign country. It may be, for example, that Gilead training is not a possibility for you because of your age or because you are a single sister or have minor children. Maybe you have not considered moving to a foreign land because you lack confidence that you could learn another language. Or you may be an immigrant living in your present country for economic reasons and thus hesitate to relocate. After prayerful consideration, however, you may find that such circumstances need not prevent you from moving to a foreign land where there is a need.

[3] **Is Missionary Training a Requirement?** What enabled Paul and his companions to be successful? They relied on Jehovah and his holy spirit. (2 Cor. 3:1-5) Therefore, even if your circumstances do not allow you to receive special training, you can still preach successfully in a foreign land. Remember, too, that you are receiving ongoing training through the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. And if you have the goal of attending Gilead or a similar school, your moving to another country to taste missionary service will give you valuable experience that you can use later if you are accepted for additional training.

[4] **Older Ones:** Spiritually mature older ones who are in reasonably good health can be a tremendous asset in countries that have a need. Have you retired from your secular work? Some who receive even a modest pension are able to manage quite well in a developing land where their expenses, including the cost of quality medical care, are much lower than in their home country.

[5] A retired brother from an English-speaking land, who is an elder and pioneer, moved to a popular tourist area in Southeast Asia to help an English-speaking group of nine publishers. The group preached to the 30,000 foreigners who lived in the area. Within two years 50 were attending the meetings. The brother wrote: "Moving here has brought me the most wonderful blessings I have ever enjoyed. Time does not allow me to relate even a fraction of them!"

[6] **Single Sisters:** Jehovah has used sisters in a mighty way to spread the good news in countries where the need is greater. (Ps. 68:11) One young single sister had the goal of expanding her ministry in a foreign land, but her parents were understandably concerned for her safety. So she chose a country that was politically and economically stable, wrote the branch office, and received helpful, specific information. During the six years she lived in that country, she enjoyed many blessings. She states: "At home I would have had few opportunities for Bible studies. But serving where there was a greater need enabled me to conduct

1. What caused Paul and his companions to go to Macedonia?
2. Why have some not considered moving to a foreign country?
3. Why is missionary training not a requirement to preach successfully in a foreign land?
4. Why should older ones not discount the idea of their preaching in a foreign country?
5. Relate an experience of a retired brother who moved to a foreign land.
6. Relate an experience of a single sister who moved to a country where the need was greater.

many studies and really develop my teaching ability."

[7] **Families:** If you have children, does this necessarily prevent you from moving to a foreign land to further the good news? One family with two children, aged eight and ten, decided to try it. The mother writes of their experience: "We are grateful that we could raise our children here, because they associated with special pioneers and missionaries. Our lives have been enriched because of serving where the need is greater."

[8] **Language Concerns:** Does the thought of learning a foreign language prevent you from moving to another land? Your language is likely spoken in other countries that have a need for more Kingdom preachers. One English-speaking couple moved to a Spanish-speaking country that has a sizable population of English-speaking immigrants. After receiving information from the branch office concerning several English congregations that had a need, they chose one and visited it twice. They returned home, cut their monthly expenses, and saved money for a year. When they were ready to move, the brothers in that area helped them locate affordable housing.

[9] **Emigrants:** Did you emigrate from your homeland, perhaps before learning the truth? There may be a great need for harvest workers in your native country. Could you consider moving back in order to assist? It will likely be easier for you to find work and accommodations than for someone who is from another country. You probably already speak the local language. In addition, people may be more willing to listen to the Kingdom message delivered by you than by someone they view as an outsider.

[10] One man moved from Albania to Italy as a refugee, secured a good job, and was sending money to his family in Albania. After coming into the truth, he began teaching Albanian to a group of Italian special pioneers who were moving there to serve where the need was greater. The brother writes: "They were heading off to the territory I had left. They didn't know the language and were thrilled to go. My language and culture were Albanian. What was I doing in Italy?" The brother decided to return to Albania to help spread the good news. He says: "Do I regret having given up work and money in Italy? Not for a minute! I found *real* work in Albania. As far as I'm concerned, the work that really matters and brings lasting joy is serving Jehovah with everything you have!"

[11] **How to Do It:** Before going to Macedonia, Paul and his companions intended to travel westward, but "they were forbidden by the holy spirit," so they turned northward. (Acts 16:6) When they were close to Bithynia, Jesus blocked them. (Acts 16:7) Jehovah, by means of Jesus, continues to oversee the preaching work. (Matt. 28:20) Therefore, if you are considering moving to a foreign land, prayerfully seek Jehovah's direction.—Luke 14:28-30; Jas. 1:5; see the box

7. Relate an experience of a family that moved to a foreign country.
8. Is it possible to serve in a foreign country without learning another language? Explain.
9, 10. What might those who emigrated from their homeland consider, and why?

11, 12. Those considering moving to a foreign land should do what?

How to Know if a Country You Are Considering Has a Need

- Consult the current *Yearbook.* Pay particular attention to the publisher-to-population ratio.
- Use the *Index* to research articles and experiences from the country.
- Talk to publishers who have visited or lived in the country.
- If you are considering a country that would allow you to preach in your native tongue, consult secular sources, such as the Internet, to see how many people there speak your language.

"How to Know if a Country You Are Considering Has a Need."

[12] Ask for objective comments from your elders and other mature Christians. (Prov. 11:14; 15:22) Read material we have published about serving in a foreign land, and also do research on any countries that you are considering. Can you visit the country that you are interested in moving to, perhaps for more than just a few days? If you are serious about moving to another country, you may write to the branch office in that country for more information, using the address in the current *Yearbook*. However, rather than sending your letter directly to the branch office, give it to your local elders, who will add their comments before they send it on.—See *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* pages 111-112.

[13] The branch office will send you helpful information about the country to help you make decisions, but it is not in a position to provide sponsorship letters or to supply residency, visa, or other legal forms or to locate accommodations for you. These are personal matters that will require your careful study *before* you move. In addition, you will be responsible for contacting embassies or consulates to obtain information about visa requirements and work permits. Those who move should be in a position to care for their individual needs and legal requirements.—Gal. 6:5.

[14] **Countries Where the Work Is Restricted:** In some countries the local brothers and sisters must be very discreet in their worship. (Matt. 10:16) Publishers who visit or move there could inadvertently draw undue attention to our activity and imperil the safety of the local brothers. If you are considering moving to such a land, please write to your local branch office through your body of elders before proceeding.

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13. How will the branch office assist you, but what are you responsible for?
14. What cautions are in order when visiting or moving to a country where the work is restricted?

[15] **If You Cannot Move:** If you are not in a position to move to another country, do not be discouraged. Perhaps another "large door that leads to activity" is open to you. (1 Cor. 16:8, 9) Your circuit overseer may know of needs within driving distance of your home. Perhaps you could help in a nearby foreign-language congregation or group. Or you may be able to expand your ministry in your present congregation. Regardless of your circumstances, the important thing is that you are whole-souled in your worship. —Col. 3:23.

[16] Do you know a spiritually mature Christian who has the goal of serving in a foreign land? Then give him or her support and encouragement! When Paul left Syrian Antioch, it was the third largest city in the Roman Empire (after Rome and Alexandria). With such a large territory, the Antioch congregation likely had a need for Paul's assistance and would sorely miss him if he left. Yet, the Bible does not indicate that the brothers there discouraged Paul from leaving. It appears that instead of taking a narrow view, they remembered that "the field is the world."—Matt. 13:38.

[17] Paul and his companions were richly blessed for responding to the invitation to step over into Macedonia. While they were in the Macedonian city of Philippi, they found Lydia, and "Jehovah opened her heart wide to pay attention to the things being spoken by Paul." (Acts 16:14) Imagine the joy of Paul and his missionary companions when Lydia and her entire household got baptized! In many lands, there are honesthearted ones like Lydia who have not yet been contacted with the Kingdom message. If you "step over into Macedonia," you may experience the joy of finding and helping them.

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15. How may those who do not have the circumstances to move away expand their ministry locally?
16. How should we react to those who wish to move to a foreign land?
17. What reasons are there to consider 'stepping over into Macedonia'?

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 29

Song 33 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 8 ¶17-24, box on p. 67 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 110-118 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 128

10 min: Announcements. Using the sample presentation on page 8, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in September, and encourage all to have a share. By means of a talk, consider "Offer an Older Magazine or Any Brochure That Addresses the Person's Interest."

15 min: Zealous, Though Advanced in Years. Discussion based on the *2011 Yearbook,* page 61, paragraphs 1-2; page 67, paragraph 1; and page 135, paragraph 2, to page 136, paragraph 1. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in September. Discussion. Take one or two minutes to review some of the contents of the magazines. Then choose two or three articles, and invite audience to suggest questions and scriptures that could be used in a presentation. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

Song 122 and Prayer

"Offer an Older Magazine or Any Brochure That Addresses the Person's Interest"

During the months that we offer the *Bible Teach* book and a study on the initial call, we are encouraged to "offer an older magazine or any brochure that addresses the person's interest" whenever the householder already has the book and does not accept the offer of a study. Why?

Brochures and older magazines consider a variety of timely subjects. Something in one of those publications may touch the heart of the householder. Therefore, when packing your witnessing case, include several different brochures and older issues. If you do not have older magazines, perhaps you can obtain some from the magazine counter. Then, if the householder already has the *Bible Teach* book and does not agree to a Bible study, you can show him some of the magazines or brochures that you have and invite him to take what interests him. Thereafter, make arrangements to return to cultivate his interest. Perhaps a Bible study will eventually result.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 29, 2011.

1. How is God's loving-kindness "better than life"? (Ps. 63:3) [*w01* 10/15 p. 15 par. 17]
2. What does Psalm 70 indicate about David? [*w08* 9/15 p. 4 par. 4]
3. What is Psalm 75:5 warning against? [*w06* 7/15 p. 11 par. 2]
4. When particularly can we expect Jehovah to listen to our prayers? (Ps. 79:9) [*w06* 7/15 p. 12 par. 5]
5. What are the "hidden things" spoken of at Psalm 90:7, 8? [*w01* 11/15 pp. 12-13 pars. 14-16]
6. As indicated at Psalm 92:12-15, what important responsibility is conferred on older ones in the congregation? [*w04* 5/15 pp. 13-14 pars. 14-18]
7. In recording the words spoken at Psalm 102:25-27, was the psalmist contradicting God's everlasting purpose for the earth? (Gen. 1:28) [*w08* 4/1 p. 12 par. 1]
8. What lesson concerning failure to exercise discernment is brought to our attention at Psalm 106:7? [*w95* 9/1 p. 19 par. 4–p. 20 par. 2]
9. According to Psalm 110:1, 4, what oath does Jehovah make toward the promised Seed, or Messiah, and how will this work out for the blessing of all mankind? [*cl* p. 194 par. 13]
10. What effect did the psalmist's meditation on the benefits of his having served God have on him? (Ps. 116:12, 14) [*w09* 7/15 p. 29 pars. 4-5]

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 5

Song 75 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 9 ¶1-7, box on pp. 68, 70 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalm 119 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 119:49-72 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why the Scriptures Encourage the Fear of Jehovah—Deut. 5:29 (5 min.)
No. 3: God's Kingdom Will Resurrect the Dead—*rs* p. 230 ¶6–p. 231 ¶3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 111
5 min: Announcements.
10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Acts 5:17-42 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: Prepare for the Ministry as a Family. Interviews and demonstration. Interview a married couple and a family with children regarding how they use their Family Worship evening to prepare for the ministry. Then have one of the family heads briefly demonstrate with his family how they do so.
Song 88 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **August:** Any 32-page brochures that are in stock except *How Can Blood Save Your Life?*, *Jehovah's Witnesses and Education*, *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?*, and *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book and do not accept the offer of a Bible study, offer an older magazine or any brochure that addresses the person's interest. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. **November:** *The Bible —What Is Its Message?*

■ The two video programs *Jehovah's Witnesses —Faith in Action, Part 1: Out of Darkness* and *The Wonders of Creation Reveal God's Glory* will be considered during upcoming Service Meetings. If needed, copies should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

■ Effective September 1, 2011, the Bahamas will come under the oversight of the United States branch.

■ Since October has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in September

"People of different nationalities and faiths pray every day. Do you think God listens to and answers *all* prayers?" Allow for response. Then hand him a copy of the September 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first subheading on page 16 and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM September 1

Show the cover of the magazine, and say: "How would you answer this question? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says. [Read 1 John 5:19.] According to this, "the wicked one," or the Devil, rules the world. But that raises some questions. Where did the Devil come from? Is he even a real person? How long will God allow him to rule? This magazine shows what the Bible says."

Awake!® September

Many people today are stressed out because of money problems. Why do you think it's so hard to make ends meet? [Allow for response.] The Bible contains wise sayings that have helped many to manage their finances. [Read one of the scriptures found on pages 8-9.] This magazine gives practical suggestions for those struggling with debt."

Field Service Highlights

We are pleased to report a new peak of 725,539 Bible studies in the United States for March 2011. This is an increase of 8,157 over the previous peak in October 2010. Also, Bermuda and the Turks and Caicos Islands had fine increases in return visits and Bible studies during March. How happy we are to see so many streaming to Jehovah's pure worship!—Isa. 2:2-4.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2011

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 12

Song 80 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 9 ¶8-18 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Psalms 120-134 (10 min.)

No. 1: Psalm 124:1–126:6 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: God's Kingdom Will Provide a World of Love and Harmony—*rs* p. 231 ¶4-6 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Can We Keep a 'Simple Eye'? —Matt. 6:22, 23 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 57

***5 min:* Announcements.** Discuss "Field Service Highlights" from page 4. Commend the congregation for their contribution to the excellent report for April.

10 min: How to Reach the Heart—Part 1. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 258 to page 261, paragraph 1. Briefly demonstrate one or two points from the material.

10 min: You Are Not Knowing Where This Will Have Success. (Eccl. 11:6) Discussion based on the *2011 Yearbook,* page 96, paragraphs 1-2, and page 113, paragraph 2, to page 114, paragraph 3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: "Treasure Your Privilege of Service." Questions and answers.

Song 22 and Prayer

Treasure Your Privilege of Service

[1] Many in Satan's world consider our preaching work to be "foolishness." (1 Cor. 1:18-21) If we are not careful, this distorted view can cause discouragement and diminish our zeal. (Prov. 24:10; Isa. 5:20) What reasons are there to treasure our privilege of being Jehovah's Witnesses?—Isa. 43:10.

[2] **A "Holy Work":** The apostle Paul referred to the ministry as a "holy work." (Rom. 15: 15, 16) How is the ministry a "holy work"? Engaging in it makes us "fellow workers" with "the Holy One," Jehovah, and contributes to the sanctification of his name. (1 Cor. 3:9; 1 Pet. 1:15) Jehovah views our preaching as "a sacrifice of praise," so the ministry is a vital aspect of our worship.—Heb. 13:15.

[3] Preaching the good news is a great honor that relatively few enjoy. The angels would gladly care for such an assignment and would no doubt do it extremely well. (1 Pet. 1:12) However, Jehovah has chosen us imperfect humans, "earthen vessels," for this awesome privilege!—2 Cor. 4:7.

[4] **A Priority:** Because we truly treasure our privilege, we view the ministry as one of "the more important things" in our life. (Phil. 1: 10) Therefore, we schedule time each week to share in it. A musician who treasures his privilege to play in a world-renowned orchestra would prepare for each performance and work at developing his skill. Similarly, we will prepare before going in the ministry so that we can 'handle the word of truth aright,' and we will work at improving our "art of teaching."—2 Tim. 2:15; 4:2.

[5] Do not let the view of most people discourage you. Remember that there are still many in our territory who appreciate our visits. However, it is not the approval of humans that we seek. Far more important is how Jehovah feels, and he highly values our diligent efforts.—Isa. 52:7.

1. How do many in the world view our preaching work?
2. Why can the ministry be called a "holy work"?
3. What makes preaching the good news a great honor?
4. How can we show that we treasure the ministry?
5. Our ministry is appreciated by whom?

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 19

Song 78 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 9 ¶19-24, box on p. 73 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 135-141 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 137:1–138:8 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why We Find Comfort in Paul's Words at Romans 14:7-9 (5 min.)
No. 3: God's Kingdom Will Make the Earth a Paradise—*rs* p. 232 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 60
5 min: Announcements.
10 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Talk by the service overseer. Review the congregation's activity during the past service year, focusing on the good things that were accomplished, and give appropriate commendation. Interview one or two publishers who enjoyed fine experiences. Mention one or two aspects of the ministry that the congregation can work on during the coming year, and offer practical suggestions for improvement.
10 min: Can You Explain? Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 198, questions 12-13.
10 min: "Jehovah Is Training Us for This Work." Questions and answers.
Song 117 and Prayer

Jehovah Is Training Us for This Work

[1] When Jehovah gives humans an assignment, he also gives them the help they need to carry it out. For example, when Jehovah told Noah to build an ark, something Noah had never done before, He also told him *how.* (Gen. 6:14-16) When the meek shepherd Moses was assigned to approach the older men of Israel and Pharaoh, Jehovah assured him: "I myself shall prove to be with your mouth and I will teach you what you ought to say." (Ex. 4:12) When it comes to our assignment to preach the good news, Jehovah has not left us on our own. He is training us for this work by means of the Theocratic Ministry School and the Service Meeting. How can we benefit from this training?

1. When Jehovah gives humans an assignment, what does he also do?

[2] **The Theocratic Ministry School:** Consider the scheduled material before attending each meeting. Then as you see how the students develop this information in their talks, your understanding of how to teach will be sharpened. (Prov. 27:17) Bring your *Ministry School* book to the meeting and use it as a workbook. When the school overseer refers to it after each student talk, underline key points that you want to apply, and use the margins to make notes. The best way to benefit from this school, however, is to participate. Are you enrolled? When you receive a talk assignment, prepare well and apply the counsel you receive. When in the ministry, use what you have learned.

[3] **The Service Meeting:** We will better remember the suggestions presented during this meeting by reading over the material in advance and preparing to comment. If we keep our comments brief, more will be able to have a share. Pay close attention to the demonstrations, and use any suggestions that you feel will make your ministry more effective. Keep a copy of key articles from *Our Kingdom Ministry* for future reference.

[4] Like the assignments given to Noah and Moses, our commission to preach the good news in all the inhabited earth is challenging. (Matt. 24:14) We can be successful if we rely on Jehovah, our Grand Instructor, and make good use of the training he provides.—Isa. 30:20.

2. How can we benefit from the Theocratic Ministry School?
3. What will help us to benefit from the Service Meeting?
4. Why should we make good use of theocratic training?

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WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 26

Song 101 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 10 ¶1-9, box on p. 79 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Psalms 142-150 (10 min.)
No. 1: Psalm 144:1–145:4 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Did God's Kingdom Begin to Rule in the First Century?—*rs* p. 232 ¶4-6 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why Must We Avoid "Acts of Favoritism"?—Jas. 2:1-4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 56
10 min: Announcements. Discuss "One Way to Use the *Bible's Message* Brochure." Using the sample presentation on page 4, demonstrate how a study may be started on Saturday, October 1. Encourage all to share.
10 min: Question Box. Discussion. Include comments on the March 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4.
15 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in October. Discussion. Use one to two minutes to point out some of the articles that may have appeal in your territory. Then, one article at a time, consider how two or three of them could be presented. Do this by inviting the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask and then asking for suggestions on a scripture to read. Since the October *Awake!* is a special issue, invite comments on whom this issue may appeal to and how we can give it wide distribution. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
Song 41 and Prayer

One Way to Use the *Bible's Message* Brochure

Many in our territory, especially those who belong to non-Christian religions, are not acquainted with the Bible. When studying with such ones out of the *Bible Teach* book, some publishers have also used the *Bible's Message* brochure to help their student gain an overview of the Bible. For example, one brother introduces section 1 of the brochure when considering chapter 3 of the *Bible Teach* book. Thereafter, he considers another section at the end of each study. Are you studying with someone who has had little or no exposure to the Bible? To help him learn 'the holy writings, which are able to make him wise for salvation,' consider supplementing the material in the *Bible Teach* book with the *Bible's Message* brochure.—2 Tim. 3:15.

QUESTION BOX

■ **Should prayer be offered at a doorstep Bible study?**

There are many benefits to opening and closing a Bible study with prayer. By means of prayer, we ask Jehovah for his holy spirit on our discussion. (Luke 11:13) Prayer also emphasizes to our student the seriousness of his Bible study and teaches him how to pray. (Luke 6:40) Therefore, it is good to introduce prayer as soon as possible. However, since circumstances vary, the conductor needs to use discernment in deciding whether to offer prayer at a doorstep Bible study.

One important factor to consider is the setting in which the study is held. If there is a measure of privacy, a brief prayer might be discreetly offered to open and close an established study. However, if doing so would draw the attention of onlookers or make the student feel uncomfortable, it may be better to wait until the study can be held in a setting that affords more privacy. Regardless of where the study is held, we should use good judgment to determine when to introduce prayer.—See the March 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 3

Song 133 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 10 ¶10-21 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Proverbs 1-6 (10 min.)

No. 1: Proverbs 6:1-19 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: How Are We Assured of God's Love for Us at Romans 8:26, 27? (5 min.)

No. 3: Must the Coming of God's Kingdom Await the Conversion of the World?—*rs* p. 233 ¶1-2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 61

5 min: Announcements.

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Luke 5:12, 13 and Luke 8:43-48 read. Consider how these accounts can help us in our ministry.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Display Good Manners in the Ministry. (2 Cor. 6:3) Discussion using the following questions as a basis: (1) Why is it important that we display good manners when preaching? (2) How may we show good manners when (a) our group arrives in the territory? (b) we are walking from house to house? (c) we are standing at the door? (d) our companion is giving a witness? (e) the householder is speaking? (f) the householder is busy or the weather is inclement? (g) the householder is rude?

Song 16 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book and do not accept the offer of a Bible study, offer an older magazine or any brochure that addresses the person's interest. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. **November:** *The Bible—What Is Its Message?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. If there are children in the household, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher* or *My Book of Bible Stories.*

■ Since October has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The special public talk for the 2012 Memorial season will be given during the week of April 2. The subject of the talk will be announced later. No congregation should have the special talk before the Memorial.

■ Publishers auxiliary pioneering during March 2012 will have the option of working toward a 30-hour or a 50-hour requirement for the month. Additionally, if the circuit overseer is visiting the congregation in March, all who are serving as auxiliary pioneers, whether with a 30-hour or a 50-hour requirement, are invited to attend the *entire* meeting the circuit overseer has with the regular pioneers.

■ In September, circuit overseers began giving the public talk entitled "Unite With God's Happy People."

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in October

"In these difficult times, we all face challenges that place stress on families. Where do you think we can find reliable guidance to help us make our family life happy?" Allow for response. Then hand the householder a copy of the October 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together material under one of the subheadings on pages 16 and 17 and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss one of the other questions.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM October 1

Show the cover of the magazine, and ask, "How would you feel if you learned that you had been lied to about God? [Allow for response.] Notice what Jesus said about the way to distinguish the truth from lies. [Read John 17:17.] So the Bible alone tells us the truth about God. This magazine discusses five common lies about God that the Bible exposes."

Awake!® October

"We're calling today as a public service to families. What would you say is the biggest challenge parents face today when raising children? [Allow for response.] Many parents rely on the Bible for advice. For example, these wise words are helpful when disciplining children. [Read Ephesians 4:31.] This magazine shows how the Bible's advice can help parents at each stage of their child's growth, from infancy through adolescence."

Field Service Highlights

The outstanding report for April 2011 included an all-time peak of auxiliary pioneers. A total of 501,091 enrolled as auxiliary pioneers in the United States branch territory. Also, the following all-time peaks were reached: The United States reported 1,184,249 publishers, 32,337,305 hours, 7,835,612 return visits, and 755,247 Bible studies. A total of 2,563,518 gathered for the Memorial on April 17. The Turks and Caicos Islands reported 94 auxiliary pioneers, 9,732 hours, 3,456 return visits, 751 Bible studies, and a Memorial attendance of 1,441. Bermuda reported 234 auxiliary pioneers and 16,396 hours spent in the ministry. What a joy to behold the tremendous response to this special month of activity, as reflected in these all-time peaks!—Ps. 110:3.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2011

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 10

Song 44 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 11 ¶1-4, boxes on pp. 84, 86-87 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Proverbs 7-11 (10 min.)
No. 1: Proverbs 8:1-21 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: *If Someone Says:* **"God's Kingdom Won't Come in My Lifetime"**—*rs* p. 233 ¶4–p. 234 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why the Scriptures Warn Against Becoming "Righteous Overmuch"—Eccl. 7:16 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 134
***5* min: Announcements.**
15 min: Have You Tried It? Discussion. By means of a talk, briefly review information from these recent articles in *Our Kingdom Ministry:* "Could You Share in the Ministry on Sundays?" (*km* 5/11) and "Street Witnessing That Is Effective" (*km* 6/11). Invite audience to comment on how they have tried to apply the suggestions in these articles and how they have benefited.
15 min: "Help the Householder to Reason." Questions and answers. After considering paragraph 3, have a demonstration showing a publisher responding to a common question or objection in a dogmatic way. Then show him responding to the same question or objection by reasoning with the householder.
Song 102 and Prayer

Help the Householder to Reason

[1] Which approach in the ministry is more effective—one that is dogmatic or one that helps the householder to reason and draw the correct conclusions? The apostle Paul used the latter when speaking to Jews in Thessalonica, and "as a result some of them became believers." (Acts 17:2-4) What is involved in reasoning with others?

[2] **Consider Feelings and Background:** A reasoning approach takes into account the feelings of those in the territory. Paul started a discourse to unbelieving Greeks at the Areopagus by mentioning things they likely knew and accepted. (Acts 17:22-31) Therefore, when preparing your presentation, consider the common beliefs and prejudices of people in your territory. (1 Cor. 9:19-22) If the householder raises an objection, try to find common ground, and build your conversation on that.

[3] **Use Questions Skillfully:** We cannot give a traveler directions to help him reach his destination unless we know his current location. Similarly, we cannot help a householder to reach the proper conclusion unless we know his current opinion. Before reasoning with a listener, Jesus often asked questions to find out the person's thinking. For example, when someone asked Jesus, "By doing what shall I inherit everlasting life?," Jesus sought the man's viewpoint before answering. (Luke 10:25-28) On another occasion, when Peter gave a wrong answer, Jesus skillfully used questions to correct his thinking. (Matt. 17:24-26) Therefore, if the householder asks a question or expresses a wrong opinion, we can use questions to help him to reason on matters.

[4] When we help the householder to reason, we imitate the Great Teacher, Jesus, as well as other skillful evangelizers in the first century. We dignify the householder and show him respect. (1 Pet. 3:15) As a result, he may be more inclined to allow us to return.

1. Which approach in the ministry is the best?
2. How may we imitate the example of Paul when we share the good news?
3. How can we reason more effectively with others by the skillful use of questions?
4. Why should we try to help the householder to reason?

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 17

Song 85 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 11 ¶5-12, box on p. 89 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Proverbs 12-16 (10 min.)
No. 1: Proverbs 15:1-17 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: How Are Acceptable Prayers Like Sweet-Smelling Incense to Jehovah?—Ps. 141:2; Rev. 5:8 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Sign Indicates That We Are Living in the Last Days?—*rs* p. 234 ¶2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 12
***5 min:* Announcements.**
10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Matthew 5:11, 12, 14-16, 23, 24 read. Consider how these verses can help us in our ministry.
10 min: Let the Householder See It With His Own Eyes. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 145. Have a brief demonstration showing a publisher returning to visit an interested person whose Bible translation has eliminated God's name.
10 min: "Do Not Hold Back." Questions and answers. Invite adults and children to relate experiences they had witnessing while in school.
Song 80 and Prayer

Do Not Hold Back

[1] Have you ever held back from witnessing at school because you were afraid that you would be ridiculed? It certainly takes courage to speak up, especially if you are shy. What will help you?

[2] **Use Good Judgment:** Although school can properly be viewed as your personal territory, remember that you are not expected to initiate spiritual conversations with *everyone* as you would when preaching from house to house. Use good judgment to determine when to speak. (Eccl. 3:1, 7) The subject of a class discussion or school assignment may give you an opportunity to express your faith. Or a fellow student may ask you why you do not participate in certain activities. Some Christians have informed their teachers at the beginning of the school year that they are Jehovah's Witnesses and given the teachers literature that explains our beliefs. Others have left literature out on their desk so as to prompt questions from schoolmates.

[3] **Be Prepared:** If you prepare, your confidence will increase. (1 Pet. 3:15) So try to anticipate questions that may arise, and think about how you could respond. (Prov. 15:28) If possible, keep your Bible and a few publications, such as the *Reasoning* book, *Young People Ask* books, and material on creation at school, so that you can refer to them when needed. Ask your parents to include practice sessions during your family worship.

[4] **Be Positive:** Do not assume that your schoolmates will always ridicule you when you mention the truth. Some will likely admire you for your courage and may even listen. But do not be discouraged if no one responds. Jehovah will be pleased that you tried. (Heb. 13:15, 16) Continue asking him to help you to 'keep speaking with all boldness.' (Acts 4:29; 2 Tim. 1:7, 8) Imagine how thrilled you will be when someone does listen. That person may even end up becoming a fellow servant of Jehovah!

1. What takes courage, and why?
2. When it comes to witnessing at school, how is good judgment involved?
3. How can you prepare to give a witness at school?
4. Why should you continue witnessing at school?

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WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 24

Song 75 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 11 ¶13-19 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Proverbs 17-21 (10 min.)
No. 1: Proverbs 17:21–18:13 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: How Are Wars and Food Shortages a Part of "the Sign"?—*rs* p. 234 ¶3–p. 235 ¶4 (5 min.)
No. 3: Those Who Praise Creation but Not the Creator Reveal What About Themselves?—Rom. 1:20 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 15
10 min: Announcements. Mention the literature offer for November, and have one or two presentations demonstrated.
25 min: "Are You Learning All You Can From Jehovah?" Questions and answers. Briefly interview someone who received specialized training through Jehovah's organization.
Song 105 and Prayer

Are You Learning All You Can From Jehovah?

1 Jehovah, our "Grand Instructor," wants us to be educated. (Isa. 30:20) He began teaching after he created his firstborn Son. (John 8:28) After Adam's rebellion, Jehovah did not stop teaching, but he lovingly provided instruction for imperfect humans.—Isa. 48:17, 18; 2 Tim. 3:14, 15.

2 Today, Jehovah is directing the greatest educational campaign in history. As prophesied by Isaiah, millions around the globe are streaming to the figurative "mountain of the house of Jehovah." (Isa. 2:2) Why stream there? To be instructed in God's ways, yes, to be taught by Jehovah! (Isa. 2:3) During the 2010 service year, Jehovah's Witnesses spent over 1.6 billion hours witnessing and teaching people Bible truth. Additionally, each week spiritual instruction is imparted in more than 105,000 congregations earth wide, and educational Christian publications are produced by the faithful and discreet slave in well over 500 languages.

3 **Benefit Fully:** How we have benefited from divine education! We have learned that God has a name and that he cares about us. (Ps. 83:18; 1 Pet. 5: 6, 7) We have learned the answers to some of life's most important questions: Why do people suffer and die? How can I find real happiness? What is the purpose of life? Jehovah has also given us moral guidance that enables us to 'make our way successful.'—Josh. 1:8.

4 In addition, Jehovah makes available specialized education to help a number of his servants expand their service to him. Pages 4-6 list opportunities that are available to some. Even if our circumstances prevent us from receiving the training that is listed, are we taking full advantage of the divine education that *is* available to us? Are we encouraging young ones, who are often steered by schoolteachers and others to pursue the world's higher education, to set spiritual goals instead and pursue the highest education—divine education? Learning all we can from Jehovah will help us to enjoy a happy life now and an everlasting future.—Ps. 119:105; John 17:3.

1. How does Jehovah feel about education?
2. What educational campaign is now under way?
3. How have you personally benefited from the education Jehovah provides?
4. What are some educational opportunities that are available to God's servants, and why should we learn all we can from Jehovah?

Some Educational Opportunities Available Through Jehovah's Organization

Literacy Classes

- **Purpose:** To teach people how to read and write in order for them to engage in personal Bible study and to teach others the truth.
- **Duration:** According to the need.
- **Location:** Local Kingdom Hall.
- **Who May Attend:** All publishers and interested persons.
- **How to Apply:** Congregation elders organize literacy classes according to the local need, and they encourage all who can benefit to attend.

Theocratic Ministry School

- **Purpose:** To train publishers to be effective preachers and teachers of the good news.
- **Duration:** Continuous.
- **Location:** Local Kingdom Hall.
- **Who May Enroll:** All publishers. Also, others who are actively associating with the congregation, who agree with the teachings of the Bible, and whose lives are in harmony with Christian principles.
- **How to Apply:** Speak to the Theocratic Ministry School overseer.

Foreign-Language Classes

- **Purpose:** To teach publishers how to preach the good news in another language.
- **Duration:** Four or five months. The classes are usually held on Saturday mornings for one or two hours.
- **Location:** Generally, a nearby Kingdom Hall.
- **Who May Enroll:** Publishers in good standing who wish to preach in a foreign language.
- **How to Apply:** Classes are arranged by the branch office in accord with the need.

Kingdom Hall Construction

- **Purpose:** To construct and renovate Kingdom Halls. This is not a school, but under this arrangement volunteers are taught various skills so that they can assist with building projects.
- **Duration:** According to the circumstances of the volunteer.
- **Location:** Anywhere within the Regional Building Committee's assigned region. Some volunteers may be invited to assist in relief work in a more distant location affected by a disaster.
- **Qualifications:** Brothers and sisters must be baptized and approved by the body of elders. They may be either skilled or unskilled.
- **How to Apply:** Fill out a *Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire* (S-82) supplied by the local elders.

Pioneer Service School

- **Purpose:** To help pioneers 'fully accomplish their ministry.'—2 Tim. 4:5.
- **Duration:** Two weeks.
- **Location:** Decided by the branch office; usually a nearby Kingdom Hall.
- **Qualifications:** Those who have been a regular pioneer for at least one year.
- **How to Enroll:** Eligible pioneers are enrolled automatically and informed by their circuit overseer.

Bethel Entrants' School

- **Purpose:** This school is designed to help new arrivals to make a success of their Bethel service.
- **Duration:** One hour each week for sixteen weeks.
- **Location:** Bethel.
- **Qualifications:** Must be permanent members of the Bethel family or long-term temporary volunteers (a year or longer).
- **How to Enroll:** Eligible members of the Bethel family are enrolled automatically.

Kingdom Ministry School

- **Purpose:** To train elders and ministerial servants to care for their oversight and organizational responsibilities. (Acts 20:28) This school is held every few years as decided by the Governing Body.
- **Duration:** In recent years it has been conducted for one and a half days for elders and one day for ministerial servants.
- **Location:** Usually at a nearby Kingdom Hall or Assembly Hall.
- **Qualifications:** Must be elders or ministerial servants.
- **How to Enroll:** Eligible elders and ministerial servants are invited by the circuit overseer.

School for Congregation Elders*

- **Purpose:** To help elders to care for their responsibilities in the congregation.
- **Duration:** Five days.
- **Location:** Decided by the branch office; usually at a nearby Kingdom Hall or Assembly Hall.
- **Qualifications:** Must be elders.
- **How to Enroll:** Eligible elders are invited by the branch office.

School for Traveling Overseers and Their Wives*

- **Purpose:** To enable circuit and district overseers to be more effective in serving congregations and to "work hard in speaking and teaching" and to shepherd those in their charge.—1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Pet. 5:2, 3.
- **Duration:** Two months.
- **Location:** Determined by the branch office.
- **Qualifications:** Must be circuit or district overseers.
- **How to Enroll:** Eligible traveling overseers and their wives are invited by the branch office.

Bible School for Single Brothers*

- **Purpose:** To prepare unmarried elders and ministerial servants for additional responsibilities. Most of the graduates will be assigned to serve where there is a need in their home country. A few may receive an assignment in another country if they make themselves available.
- **Duration:** Two months.
- **Location:** Decided by the branch office; usually at an Assembly Hall or a Kingdom Hall.
- **Qualifications:** Single brothers between 23 and 62 years of age and in good health who want to serve the brothers and Kingdom interests wherever there is a need. (Mark 10:29, 30) They must be serving for a minimum of two continuous years in an appointed capacity.
- **How to Apply:** If this school is available in your branch territory, a meeting for those interested in enrolling is held at the circuit assembly. Further information is supplied during this meeting.

Bible School for Christian Couples*

- **Purpose:** To give married couples specialized training so that they can be used more fully by Jehovah and his organization. Most of the graduates will be assigned to serve where there is a need in their home country. A few may receive an assignment in another country if they make themselves available.
- **Duration:** Two months.
- **Location:** The first few classes are being held at the Watchtower Educational Center in Patterson, New York, U.S.A. Thereafter, this school will be held at locations decided by the branch office, generally at an Assembly Hall or a Kingdom Hall.
- **Qualifications:** Married couples between 25 and 50 years of age and in good health who have the circumstances to serve wherever there is a need and who have the attitude: "Here I am! Send me." (Isa. 6:8) Further, they must be married for at least two years and be currently in full-time service at least two years without interruption.
- **How to Apply:** If this school is available in your branch territory, a meeting for those interested in enrolling is held at the special assembly day. Further information is supplied during this meeting.

Watchtower Bible School of Gilead

- **Purpose:** To train pioneers and other full-time servants for missionary service.
- **Duration:** Five months.
- **Location:** Watchtower Educational Center, Patterson, New York, U.S.A.
- **Qualifications:** Married couples who are baptized for three years and are between 21 and 38 years of age when submitting their first application. They must speak English, be married for at least two years, and be currently in full-time service at least two years without interruption. Applicants must be in good health. Pioneers serving in a foreign country (including those with missionary status); traveling overseers; Bethel family members; and past graduates of the Ministerial Training School, the Bible School for Single Brothers, and the Bible School for Christian Couples may also apply if they meet the qualifications.
- **How to Apply:** In selected branches, a meeting for those interested in this school is held at the district convention. Further information is supplied during this meeting. If there is no meeting at conventions in your land and you would like to apply, you may write your branch office for further information.

School for Branch Committee Members and Their Wives

- **Purpose:** To help those serving on Branch Committees to care better for the work of supervising Bethel homes, giving attention to service matters affecting congregations, and overseeing circuits and districts in their respective territories, as well as translating, printing, and shipping literature and overseeing various departments.—Luke 12:48b.
- **Duration:** Two months.
- **Location:** Watchtower Educational Center, Patterson, New York, U.S.A.
- **Qualifications:** Branch Committee or Country Committee members or being assigned as such.
- **How to Enroll:** Eligible brothers and their wives are invited by the Governing Body.

* Currently this school is not available in every country.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 31

Song 104 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 12 ¶1-8, box on p. 96 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Proverbs 22-26 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 28

10 min: Announcements. "What Condition Is It In?" Talk. Following the talk, use the sample presentation on page 8 to demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in November.

15 min: The Value of Good Personal Appearance in the Ministry. Discussion by an elder based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 131-134.

10 min: Prepare to Offer the Magazines in November. Discussion. Take one to two minutes to point out a few of the articles that may have appeal in your territory. Next, using the cover series of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask, and then invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for the cover series of *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

Song 90 and Prayer

What Condition Is It In?

That is a good question to ask about any piece of literature we plan to offer. Anything that is dog-eared, discolored, soiled, or torn will reflect badly on our organization and could distract the householder from the beautiful, lifesaving message the literature contains.

How can we keep our literature neat? Many find it helpful to organize their witnessing case so that similar items are together. For example, they have a place for books, another for magazines and brochures, still another for tracts, and so forth. Whenever they return their Bible and any literature to their witnessing case, they do so carefully so as to avoid causing damage. Some publishers keep their literature in folders or clear plastic bags. Regardless of the system we use, we do not want to give someone a legitimate reason to find fault with our ministry by giving him damaged literature.—2 Cor. 6:3.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 31, 2011.

1. Why cleave to Jehovah's reminders? (Ps. 119:60, 61) [*w00* 12/1 p. 14 par. 3]
2. What lesson can be learned from Psalm 133:1-3? [*w06* 9/1 p. 16 par. 3]
3. In what way had Jehovah "searched through" David and "measured off" his "journeying" and "lying outstretched"? (Ps. 139:1, 3) [*w06* 9/1 p. 16 par. 6; *w93* 10/1 p. 11 par. 6]
4. Through what sort of difficulties will Jehovah 'give support to' or 'raise up' his servants? (Ps. 145:14) [*w04* 1/15 p. 17 par. 11]
5. What behavior causes the man mentioned at Proverbs 6:12-14 to be viewed as good-for-nothing? [*w00* 9/15 p. 26 pars. 5-6]
6. Why can a wise person "accept commandments"? (Prov. 10:8) [*w01* 7/15 p. 26 par. 1]
7. How do the wise differ from the foolish in the way they respond to insults or unjust criticisms? (Prov. 12:16) [*w03* 3/15 p. 27 pars. 3-4]
8. How does a positive attitude make it possible for us to enjoy "a feast constantly"? (Prov. 15:15) [*w06* 7/1 p. 16 par. 6]
9. What is involved in "acquiring heart," and in what sense is the one who does so "loving his own soul"? (Prov. 19:8) [*w99* 7/1 p. 18 par. 4; *it*-1 p. 1059 par. 1]
10. How can discernment benefit a household? (Prov. 24:3) [*w06* 9/15 p. 27 par. 11; *be* p. 32 par. 1]

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 7

Song 131 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

bt chap. 12 ¶9-13, box on p. 97 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Proverbs 27-31 (10 min.)

No. 1: Proverbs 28:19–29:10 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: How Does Reasoning on Romans 8:32 Assure Us That All of God's Promises Will Be Fulfilled? (5 min.)

No. 3: How Has Luke 21:11 Been Undergoing Fulfillment Since 1914?—*rs* p. 236 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 55

***5* min: Announcements.**

10 min: Answering Questions About Blood Transfusions. Discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, page 74, paragraph 1, to page 76, paragraph 2. Include a brief demonstration of a pioneer being asked one of the questions in the door-to-door work and using the *Reasoning* book to answer it.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Jehovah Will Not Forsake His People. (Ps. 94:14) Discussion based on the *2011 Yearbook,* page 215, paragraphs 1-2, and page 221, paragraph 3, to page 222, paragraph 5. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 110 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, present the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* and endeavor to start a Bible study. **November:** *The Bible—What Is Its Message?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. If there are children in the household, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher* or *My Book of Bible Stories.* **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book and do not accept the offer of a Bible study, publishers may offer an older magazine or any brochure that addresses the person's interest.

■ Groups of 20 or more planning to visit the United States branch office facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill should first correspond with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204, or at fax number (845) 306-0200. At least three weeks prior to visiting, please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. *Lodging information may be obtained from the congregation secretary.* Before your visit, please review the March 2008 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box and the brochure *Dress and Grooming for Visitors Touring Bethel.*

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in November

"Do you think people who try to obey God are happier? [Allow for response.] This article makes some interesting points." Hand the householder a copy of the November 1 issue of *The Watchtower,* and read and discuss together the material under one of the subheadings on pages 16-17. Read at least one of the scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return and to consider the answer to the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM November 1

"Some feel that the Bible's view of sex is old-fashioned and needlessly restrictive. Others agree with the Bible. What do you think? [Allow for response.] Notice what this says about the source of Bible standards. [Read 2 Timothy 3:16.] This magazine shows how the Bible answers ten commonly asked questions about sex. It also explains how Bible standards benefit us."

Awake!® November

"If we take a close, objective look at the universe around us, to what conclusion do you think it leads—that there is a Creator or that everything came about by chance? [Allow for response.] Here is what one Bible writer concluded when he looked at the universe. [Read Romans 1:20.] This magazine explains what scientists have discovered about the human cell that sheds light on this issue."

Field Service Highlights

The Turks and Caicos Islands reported a new peak of 769 Bible studies in May 2011, representing an increase of 14 percent for the past nine months. Bermuda and the United States also saw fine increases of 10 percent and 4 percent, respectively, in their Bible study activity during the same time period. What a joy to share in the spiritual harvest work!—Luke 10:2.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2011

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 14

Song 49 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 12 ¶14-20 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Ecclesiastes 1-6 (10 min.)
No. 1: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: What Does the Increase in Lawlessness Indicate?—*rs* p. 237 ¶1-2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why True Christians Heed the Counsel at Romans 12:19 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 127
***5* min: Announcements.**
***15* min: Do You Find Joy in "the Privilege of Kindly Giving"?** Talk by an elder based on the November 15, 2011, *Watchtower,* pages 22-23.
***15* min: "Seeds Must Be Watered in Order to Grow."** Questions and answers. After considering paragraph 3, have a soliloquy of a publisher preparing for a return visit. He reviews his record regarding the individual and considers how to answer the question the publisher raised on the last call and how to start a study in the *Bible Teach* book. Briefly review page 85, paragraph 3, of the *Organized* book regarding what constitutes a return visit.
Song 98 and Prayer

Seeds Must Be Watered in Order to Grow

[1] Seeds planted in a garden must be watered in order to grow. The same is true with regard to seeds of truth that are planted in the hearts of people in our territory. (1 Cor. 3:6) We must make return visits and water these figurative seeds using God's Word if we want them to take root, grow, and flourish.

1. What must be watered in order for it to grow?

[2] **Raise a Question:** When you prepare your presentation, why not also prepare an interest-arousing question that you could answer on the return visit? Raise it at the conclusion of the initial conversation, and make definite arrangements to return. Many find it beneficial to choose something from the *Bible Teach* book that will allow them to demonstrate a Bible study.

[3] **Make a Record:** As soon as you leave the initial call, take the time to make a record. Write down the person's name and address. It is also good to note the date and time you spoke to him, what you talked about, and what literature you placed, if any. Did he say he belonged to a certain religion? Does he have a family? Did he mention his interests and concerns? Such information will help you tailor future conversations. Also write down when you agreed to return and the question you will answer.

[4] **Persevere:** Satan will not rest in his efforts to 'take away the word' planted in a person's heart. (Mark 4:14, 15) Therefore, do not give up if you have difficulty finding the interested person at home again. Could you send a letter or leave a note in the door? One pioneer started a doorstep study with a woman but was unable to find her at home again, so she sent a letter. When the sister eventually found her at home, the woman expressed how deeply touched she was by the personal interest shown to her. As we water seeds of truth, we can experience the joy that comes from seeing them sprout, grow to maturity, and "bear fruit thirtyfold and sixty and a hundred."—Mark 4:20.

2. How can we lay the groundwork for the next visit?
3. What information can be included when recording interest?
4. When it comes to following up interest, why should we persevere?

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 21

Song 53 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

bt chap. 13 ¶1-7, boxes on pp. 100, 103 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Ecclesiastes 7-12 (10 min.)

No. 1: Ecclesiastes 9:13–10:11 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Love Is Not Jealous—1 Cor. 13:4 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Does the Sign of the Last Days Affect True Christians?—*rs* p. 238 ¶2-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 83

10 min: Announcements. Question Box. Talk.

15 min: Persecuted for a Witness. (Luke 21:12, 13) Discussion based on the *2011 Yearbook,* page 153, paragraph 1; page 179, paragraphs 1-2; and page 203, paragraph 2, to the end of page 204. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: The Literature Offer for December. Discussion. Consider features of the literature being offered, and have one or two presentations demonstrated.

Song 35 and Prayer

QUESTION BOX

■ Who should fill out coupons and Internet requests?

Our publications often contain coupons that can be filled out and sent to the branch office to request literature or a visit from Jehovah's Witnesses. In addition, our Web site www.watchtower.org can be used to request a Bible study. These provisions are helping many to learn the truth. However, problems have resulted when publishers have used these tools to make arrangements for their relatives or others to receive spiritual assistance.

Some who have been sent unsolicited literature from the branch office have complained, feeling that our organization is harassing them and has them on some sort of mailing list. Publishers who have received a notice to call on someone who did not personally request a visit have found themselves in an awkward position when the individual expressed irritation. Therefore, requests made on our Web site or by means of coupons should come from interested ones themselves and not from publishers in behalf of others. When such requests are identified as being sent in behalf of someone else, they are generally not processed.

How, then, can we assist a relative or an acquaintance spiritually? If you would like him to receive literature, why not send it directly to him as a gift? If he has expressed interest and wishes to be visited by Witnesses but you do not know how to contact the elders in the local congregation, you should submit a *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form to your congregation secretary, who will review it and forward it to the branch office. However, if the interested one is confined to a prison, a jail, a substance-abuse facility, or a state hospital, you should not contact the branch office in his behalf. Rather, you could encourage him to contact the brothers who visit the facility or to write personally to the branch office.

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WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 28

Song 26 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 13 ¶8-16, box on p. 105 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: The Song of Solomon 1-8 (10 min.)
No. 1: Song of Solomon 1:1-17 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Say That the Last Days Began in 1914?—*rs* p. 239 ¶2–p. 240 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: How Can We Earn the Respect of Others? (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 118
10 min: Announcements. Using the sample presentation on page 4, demonstrate how a Bible study may be started on the first Saturday in December. Encourage all to have a share.
15 min: "The Most Important Quality of a Good Teacher." Questions and answers. Invite audience to relate how love demonstrated by their Bible teacher helped them to make spiritual progress.
10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in December. Discussion. Take one to two minutes to point out a few of the articles that may have appeal in your territory. Next, using the cover series of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask, and then invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for the cover series of *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
Song 63 and Prayer

The Most Important Quality of a Good Teacher

[1] What is it that enables someone to be a good Bible teacher? Secular education? Experience? Natural ability? Actually, it is the same quality that is the Law's fulfillment, that identifies Jesus' disciples, and that is the most dominant and appealing of Jehovah's cardinal attributes. (John 13:35; Gal. 5:14; 1 John 4:8) It is love. Good teachers demonstrate love.

[2] **Love People:** The Great Teacher, Jesus, showed love for people, and this motivated them to listen to him. (Luke 5:12, 13; John 13:1; 15:13) If we care about people, we will witness at every opportunity. Obstacles such as persecution and apathy will not deter us. We will show sincere personal interest in those to whom we preach, and we will tailor our approach to meet their concerns. We will be willing to take time not only when we are with each Bible student but also when we are preparing for each study beforehand.

[3] **Love Bible Truths:** Jesus also loved Bible truths and viewed them as treasures. (Matt. 13:52) If we love the truth, we will speak with enthusiasm, and this can stimulate excitement in our listeners. Such love will help us to focus on the valuable information we are imparting rather than on our personal limitations, and we may then be less nervous in the ministry.

[4] **Cultivate Love:** How can we cultivate love for people? By reflecting on the love that Jehovah and his Son have shown and the dire spiritual condition of people in our territory. (Mark 6:34; 1 John 4:10, 11) Our love for Bible truths will deepen through regular personal study and meditation. Love is an aspect of the fruitage of the spirit. (Gal. 5:22) So we can petition Jehovah for holy spirit and ask him to help us grow in love. (Luke 11:13; 1 John 5:14) Regardless of our secular education, experience in the truth, or natural abilities, we can be an effective Bible teacher by demonstrating love.

1. What is the most important quality of a good teacher?
2. Why is it vital for us to have love for people?
3. How will love for Bible truths help us in the ministry?
4. How can we cultivate love?

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER *5*

Song 29 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 13 ¶17-24 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Isaiah 1-5 (10 min.)

No. 1: Isaiah 3:16–4:6 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Why Must We Maintain Our Sense of Urgency? (5 min.)

No. 3: Will Anyone Be Alive on Earth After the End of the Present World System?—*rs* p. 240 ¶2-5 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 111

***5* min: Announcements.**

10 min: If Someone Asks You Why You Don't Celebrate Christmas. Discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, page 176 to page 179, paragraph 2. Have one brief demonstration.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Be Prepared for the Ministry. Discussion based on the following questions. (1) How do you prepare for (a) house-to-house witnessing? (b) return visits? (c) informal witnessing? (2) Why should we prepare every time we conduct a Bible study? (3) What do you do to help your Bible student to prepare his lesson? (4) How does preparation help you to enjoy the ministry more? (5) Why is Jehovah pleased when we prepare for the ministry?

Song 101 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **November:** *The Bible—What Is Its Message?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. If there are children in the household, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher* or *My Book of Bible Stories*. **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book and do not accept the offer of a Bible study, publishers may offer an older magazine or any brochure that addresses the person's interest. **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *The Secret of Family Happiness*.

■ Donations for the worldwide work that are sent directly to the branch office should be made payable to "Watchtower." The branch office's financial address is Watchtower, c/o Treasurer's Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in December

"I'm sure you will agree that everyone needs friends. What quality do *you* value most in a friend? [Allow for response.] Notice what this says about why we should select our friends carefully." Hand the householder a copy of the December 1 issue of *The Watchtower,* and read and discuss together the material under the first subheading on page 16. Read at least one of the scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return and consider the answer to the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM December 1

"Have you ever wondered why there have been so many natural disasters lately? [Allow for response.] Interestingly, the Bible foretold a time that would be marked by disasters. [Read Matthew 24:7, 8.] This magazine answers these questions: Why are we seeing so many natural disasters today? Are they punishment from God? What reasons are there to believe that God will soon end all natural disasters."

Awake!® December

Read 2 Timothy 3:16. Then say: "Some agree that the Bible was inspired by God, while others do not. What do you think? [Allow for response.] Although opinions vary on that question, it is generally agreed that no other book has been the object of so many efforts to destroy it. This magazine describes some of the efforts to destroy the Bible and suppress the reading of it down through the centuries. It also explains why it has survived."

Field Service Highlights

When comparing June 2011 with the same month the previous year, there was an increase in Bible studies of 5.7 percent in the United States, 4.3 percent in Bermuda, and 4.2 percent in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Similarly, during the same time period, there was an increase in publishers of 2.5 percent in the United States, 6.5 percent in Bermuda, and 15.1 percent in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Indeed, Jehovah's servants are busy fulfilling Jesus' commission to teach and make disciples!—Matt. 28:19, 20.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2011

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 12

Song 43 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 14 ¶1-5, box on p. 112 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Isaiah 6-10 (10 min.)
No. 1: Isaiah 6:1-13 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Does God Allow So Much Time to Pass Before Destroying the Wicked?—*rs* p. 241 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why Love Never Fails—1 Cor. 13:8; 1 John 4:8 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 36
5 min: **Announcements.**
15 min: **The Theocratic Ministry School for 2012.** Talk by the school overseer. Discuss points needing emphasis locally from the schedule for 2012. Review the role of the auxiliary counselor. Encourage all to be diligent in fulfilling their assignments, in participating in Bible highlights, and in applying the suggestions given weekly from the *Ministry School* book.
15 min: **"We Are Never Off Duty."** Questions and answers. When considering paragraph 2, briefly interview a publisher who is effective at informal witnessing. Invite him to explain how he prepares in advance, and have him relate a good experience.
Song 135 and Prayer

We Are Never Off Duty

[1] Zealous first-century evangelizers declared the good news "without letup" wherever people were found. (Acts 5:42) So we cannot imagine that when going from house to house they would walk past people on the road without preaching to them too. Neither would they forgo an opportunity to witness informally while shopping in the marketplace after finishing the field ministry. Like Jesus, they never considered themselves to be off duty.—Mark 6:31-34.

1. How do we know that first-century evangelizers never considered themselves to be off duty?

[2] **Always Ready:** Our name, Jehovah's Witnesses, does not just describe *what we do;* it describes *who we are.* (Isa. 43:10-12) So we are always ready to make a defense of our hope, even when we are not going from house to house. (1 Pet. 3:15) Do you anticipate situations that may allow you to witness informally and then think about what you might say? Do you keep literature with you to share with those who show interest? (Prov. 21:5) Do you preach only from house to house, or do you also spread the good news to people in other settings if circumstances allow?

[3] **Not *"Alternative"* Witnessing:** In the past we sometimes used the word "alternative" to refer to preaching on the street and in parking lots, parks, places of business, and so forth. However, "alternative" could seem to suggest that such efforts are out of the ordinary, unconventional, or optional. The apostle Paul said that he preached "publicly" and from house to house. (Acts 20:20) So "public" witnessing would be a more appropriate term than "alternative" witnessing. It is true that the house-to-house ministry continues to be our primary and most effective way of reaching people with the Kingdom message. However, first-century evangelizers focused on people, not houses. They took advantage of every opportunity to talk about the truth—publicly, informally, and from house to house. May we have the same mind-set in order to accomplish our ministry fully.—2 Tim. 4:5.

2. What is involved in living up to our name?
3. Why is "alternative" not the best word to describe preaching on the street and in parking lots, parks, places of business, and so forth?

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 19

Song 125 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 14 ¶6-10, box on p. 110 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Isaiah 11-16 (10 min.)

No. 1: Isaiah 13:1-16 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Why We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight—2 Cor. 5:7 (5 min.)

No. 3: ***If Someone Says:*** **"Conditions Are No Worse Today; There Have Always Been Wars, Famines, Earthquakes, and Crime"**—*rs* p. 241 ¶5–p. 242 ¶2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 81

10 min: Announcements. Mention the literature offer for January, and have one presentation demonstrated.

15 min: Preach in Troublesome Season. (2 Tim. 4:2) Discussion based on the *2011 Yearbook,* page 121 to page 122, paragraph 4, and page 226. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: Question Box. Discussion by the service overseer.

Song 92 and Prayer

QUESTION BOX

■ What determines whether we will leave literature with someone?

The primary factor is the person's interest. If he demonstrates genuine interest, we may leave him two magazines, a brochure, a book, or other literature that we are offering. This is true even if we discern that he has little or no money to donate toward the worldwide work. (Job 34:19; Rev. 22:17) On the other hand, we would not leave our precious literature with those who do not appreciate it.—Matt. 7:6.

Publishers should use good judgment to determine the individual's interest

How might a householder demonstrate interest? A willingness to converse with us is a good sign. Paying attention while we speak, responding to questions, and expressing an opinion indicate involvement in the discussion. Following along as we read from the Bible implies a respect for God's Word. Often, it is helpful to ask if he would read the literature being offered. Publishers should use good judgment to determine the individual's interest. When doing street witnessing, for example, it would not be appropriate to hand out magazines, brochures, or books indiscriminately to everyone who walks past us. If we are unable to determine a person's interest, it would be better to give him a handbill or tract.

Similarly, the amount of literature a publisher obtains from the literature counter should be based on what the publisher needs in order to carry out his ministry, not on his ability to donate. Donations are not to pay for literature but to support *all* aspects of our worldwide preaching activity. Regardless of our financial means, appreciation will move us to give generously out of our want, not out of our surplus, to support Kingdom interests. (Mark 12:41-44; 2 Cor. 9:7) It will also prompt us to take only the literature that we need, thus not wasting theocratic resources.

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WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 26

Song 123 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 14 ¶11-20 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Isaiah 17-23 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 69

***5* min: Announcements.** Discuss "A Good Way to Enjoy Kingdom Songs."

15 min: How to Use *Reasoning From the Scriptures*. Talk based on the *Reasoning* book, pages 7-8. Explain how to use the various features of this publication. Include one or two demonstrations.

15 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Acts 10:1-35 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.

Song 63 and Prayer

A Good Way to Enjoy Kingdom Songs

God's servants consider music to be a beautiful gift from Jehovah. (Jas. 1:17) Many congregations enjoy playing Kingdom songs softly before and after their congregation meetings. Playing theocratic music is a soothing way to welcome us to meetings. It helps us to get mentally prepared for worship. Additionally, playing newer tunes from our songbook acquaints us with the melodies and helps us to sing the songs properly. Such music played after the meeting maintains an uplifting atmosphere in which to enjoy encouraging association. Therefore, bodies of elders should make appropriate arrangements to play music from *Sing to Jehovah—Piano Accompaniment* before and after the meeting. They should make sure that the volume level is reasonable and does not drown out conversation.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 26, 2011.

1. How can the counsel found at Proverbs 30:32 help us to refrain from further provoking someone we may have offended? [*w87* 5/15 p. 30 par. 11]
2. What kind of "rejoicing" leaves a person feeling unfulfilled? (Eccl. 2:1) [*g* 4/06 p. 6 pars. 1-2]
3. Although some people conclude that Solomon's words recorded at Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 support belief in fate, how does what he wrote at Ecclesiastes 9:11 clarify matters, showing clearly that everything in life is not determined by fate? [*w09* 3/1 p. 4 par. 4]
4. What danger is there in being "righteous overmuch"? (Eccl. 7:16) [*w10* 10/15 p. 9 pars. 8-9]
5. How does Song of Solomon 2:7 indicate that those considering marriage are wise not to be hasty in choosing a mate? [*w06* 11/15 p. 19 par. 1; *w80* 4/15 p. 19 par. 7]
6. What is significant about the Shulammite's 'lips dripping with comb honey' and 'honey and milk being under her tongue'? (Song of Sol. 4:11) [*w06* 11/15 p. 19 par. 6]
7. How do the titles "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," and "Eternal Father" give us insight into the qualities of Jesus and his rule in the new world? (Isa. 9:6) [*w91* 4/15 p. 5 par. 7]
8. Who today can be compared to the "apostate nation" of Israel, and who will serve as Jehovah's "rod" to destroy it? (Isa. 10:5, 6) [*ip-1* p. 145 pars. 4-5; p. 153 par. 20]
9. Why is Isaiah's prediction that Babylon "will never be inhabited" so remarkable, and what confidence does its fulfillment give us today? (Isa. 13:19, 20) [*g* 11/07 p. 9 pars. 4-5]
10. When did Jesus receive "the key of the house of David," and how has he been using that key? (Isa. 22:22) [*w09* 1/15 p. 31 par. 2]

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 2

Song 118 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
bt chap. 15 ¶1-7, box on p. 116 (25 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Isaiah 24-28 (10 min.)
No. 1: Isaiah 27:1-13 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Never Doubt Jehovah's Love for You —Isa. 57:15 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Is the Purpose of Human Life?—*rs* p. 243 ¶3–p. 244 ¶4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 65
10 min: Announcements. Using the sample presentation on this page, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in January.
10 min: Local needs.
15 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in January. Discussion. Take one to two minutes to point out a few of the articles that may have appeal in your territory. Next, using the cover series of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask, and then invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for the cover series of *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Encourage publishers to make a special effort to offer the *Awake!* in business territories. Invite the service overseer to comment on local arrangements for doing this. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered. In the demonstration for the *Awake!* magazine, show how it may be featured when working business territory.
Song 86 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. If there are children in the household, offer *Learn From the Great Teacher* or *My Book of Bible Stories*. **January:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book and do not accept the offer of a Bible study, offer an older magazine or any brochure that addresses the person's interest. **February:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *The Secret of Family Happiness*. **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Endeavor to start Bible studies on the initial call. If householders already have the book and do not accept the offer of a Bible study, offer an older magazine or any brochure that addresses the person's interest.

■ The Memorial for the year **2013** will be on Tuesday, March 26.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in January

"Some people believe that the Bible is a reliable book of prophecy. Others feel that it contains vague predictions that could be interpreted in many different ways. What's your opinion?" Allow for response. Then hand the householder the January 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first subheading on page 16 and at least one of the scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM January 1

"We can learn many lessons from the great men and women of history. Would you agree? [Allow for response.] This verse refers to one great man, the only one called 'God's friend' in the Bible. [Read James 2:23.] This magazine explains why God considered him his friend and discusses what we can learn from Abraham's example."

Awake!® January

"Bribes, kickbacks, and other forms of dishonesty have become quite common in the business world. Some feel that a certain amount of dishonesty in business is necessary in order to be successful. What do you think? [Allow for response.] Notice this thought-provoking proverb. [Read Proverbs 20:17.] This magazine explains why it is practical to be honest."

Field Service Highlights

During the month of July 2011, there were 5,718 individuals in the United States branch territory who symbolized their dedication to Jehovah by water baptism. (Acts 2:41) Also, when compared to the same month last year, the number of Bible studies increased by 5.6 percent and the number of regular pioneers increased by 7.9 percent. We rejoice to see so many taking up the full-time service!